



Hon Tony Kelly MLC
Minister for Planning
Minister for Infrastructure
Minister for Lands
Deputy Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council
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MEDIA RELEASE

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FURTHER SUPPORT FOR MURRAY RIVER RED GUMS

The NSW Government has supported the ongoing health of Australia's second largest river red gum forest.

Minister for Planning, Tony Kelly, has approved managed flooding of more than 16,000 hectares of the Koondrook-Perricoota Forest in the State's south.

"The \$57.7 million project will create a major flood event every three to four years," the Minister said.

"This will ensure at least 30% of the Murray River's river red gum forest remains in a healthy condition, along with assisting bird and fish breeding."

NSW Office of Water and Forests NSW sought project approval for construction of a channel to divert water from the Murray River.

Mr Kelly said it will also involve the installation of a series of structures to contain the floodwater within the forest and prevent impact on neighbouring properties.

"The project includes two fishway structures for the management of fish movements and a freshwater ramp to allow turtles to pass through," the Minister said.

"Eighty jobs will be created during construction and three full-time jobs once operational."

A total of 43 conditions have been imposed on the project including:

- Conservation of 94 hectares of endangered Inland Grey Box Woodland to compensate for the necessary removal of eight hectares;
- A management plan for protection of the site's fish population;
- Detailed measures to avoid flooding on private land, including active involvement of the local community;
- Implementation of a Construction Noise Management Plan; and
- Measures to monitor and manage Indigenous heritage on site, including the involvement of the Joint Indigenous Group consisting of representatives of the site's traditional owners and Local Aboriginal Land Councils.

The Department of Planning approved the project under delegated authority, under Part 3A of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act*.
