

# Guide to the Public Environment Report for the modified operation of the fully modernised Goulburn Murray Irrigation District

This Public Environment Report (**PER**) has been prepared for the Commonwealth Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (**DEWHA**) for the assessment and approval of an action under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth) (**EPBC Act**). This document was prepared in accordance with the scoping guidelines finalised by DEWHA in December 2009.

The proposed action is the modified operation of the fully modernised Goulburn Murray Irrigation District (**GMID**) in northern Victoria. The modified operation is the product of the application of modern technology to the delivery of irrigation water, including channel automation and electronic metering.

This guide briefly describes the content of each chapter of this PER.

**Executive Summary** provides a synopsis of the PER.

**Chapter 1 – General information** gives an overview of the proposed action including location, background, current status and consequences of not proceeding with the action.

**Chapter 2 – Context of the action** provides detailed information about the operation of the current irrigation systems in the GMID and Commonwealth and Victorian policy initiatives.

**Chapter 3 – Description of the action** gives a detailed description of the action including the relevant components, benefits and potential impacts, and potential future works and approval processes related to the action.

**Chapter 4 – Matters of national environmental significance (MNES)** identifies any MNES that are present or potentially present in the development footprint of the action and a surrounding 40 km buffer.

**Chapter 5 – Hydrological effects** explains the methodology and major findings of the technical reports that assessed hydrological changes arising from the action.

**Chapter 6 – Relevant impacts** describes the potential ecological effects on MNES that could be caused by hydrological changes arising from the action.

**Chapter 7 – Proposed safeguards and mitigation measures** outlines planning and activities that will be undertaken to prevent or minimise any potential impacts of the action on MNES.

**Chapter 8 – Other approvals and conditions** describes other State and Commonwealth approval processes and decisions relevant to the action.

**Chapter 9 – Environmental record** provides details of the environmental record of the proponent and their environmental policy.

**Chapter 10 – Information sources** outlines the sources of information used to prepare the PER and their reliability and identifies any assumptions or uncertainties in the information.

**Chapter 11 – Economic and social matters** provides information on economic and social benefits and costs associated with the action and summarises public consultation conducted.

**Chapter 12 – Conclusion** summarises the findings of the PER and provides a final recommendation and set of proposed conditions for approval of the action.