



Information bulletin

Saving our State animal and bird emblems: Cockatoo Swamp rehabilitation project, Yellingbo

October 2017

Melbourne Water is undertaking a unique and important project in Cockatoo Swamp in Yellingbo Nature Conservation Reserve to improve habitat for the critically endangered Helmeted Honeyeater and lowland Leadbeater's Possum. Both species are state faunal emblems of Victoria and they are found nowhere else in the world.

Why are the works necessary?

Historical changes to waterways and the construction of a levee bank by farmers in the 1950s has caused some areas of Cockatoo Swamp to receive too much water, and other areas not enough water.

By the 1990s, native vegetation such as the Mountain Swamp Gum trees began to die within the swamp. This vegetation is vital habitat for the Helmeted Honeyeater and lowland Leadbeater's Possum.

The project works are aimed at providing more natural patterns of wetting and drying within Cockatoo Swamp. This will be crucial to stop the trees and other swampy vegetation from dying, and allowing it to recover and regenerate.



Helmeted Honeyeater



Lowland Leadbeater's Possum

What do the works involve?

The works involve the installation of a temporary pipeline and pumping infrastructure to lower the water levels in a key area of the swamp, as well as the permanent removal of targeted sections of the historical levee to enable more water in to important areas of the swamp.

The pumping will be trialled for a period of four years to assess the benefits before implementing a permanent solution.

By enhancing the conditions of the Cockatoo Swamp environment, the project works will help to provide long term improvement of the last remaining habitat of the lowland Leadbeater's Possum and the Helmeted Honeyeater.

Impacts of works

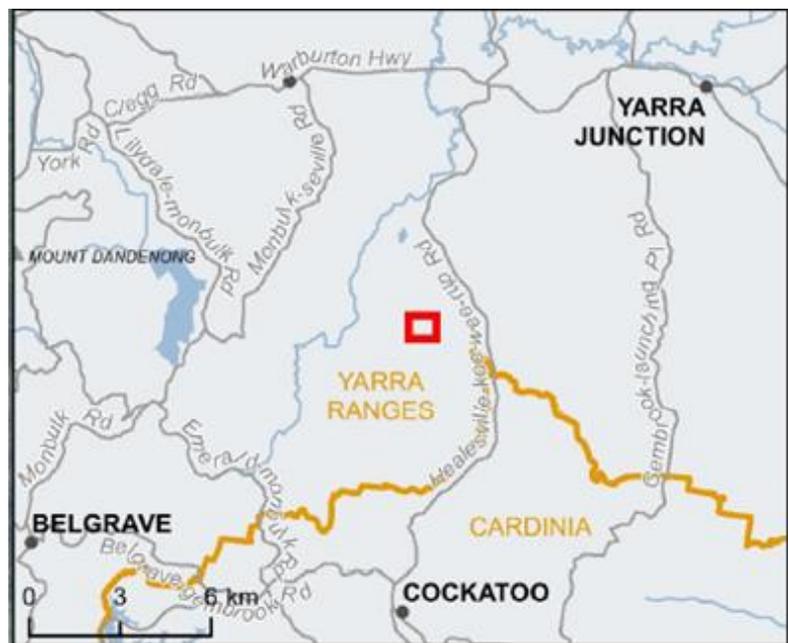
The project has been carefully designed and we have consulted closely with key stakeholders to minimise any impacts on the sensitive ecological and landscape values of the conservation reserve, particularly the endangered species. Approvals have been obtained from federal, state and local council levels, and project-specific plans are in place to protect all native plants and animals.

We have consulted with relevant stakeholders to ensure people using the conservation reserve are safe and not exposed to any construction related risks in the project areas.

Timing of works

Installation of the temporary pipeline is expected to take place in early 2018. Pumping will be confined to periods between January and the end of April every year to minimise any impact on the Helmeted Honeyeater breeding cycles.

Works will commence on the permanent removal of the levee sections in the spring or summer of 2017/18 during periods of low flows. This is dependent on weather and site conditions.



Cockatoo Swamp project location, Yellingbo

For further information on this project call 131 722 quoting 'Cockatoo Swamp'.
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131 722 or visit melbournewater.com.au