



Reedy Lagoon environmental water top-up

In mid to late May, North Central Catchment Management Authority (CMA) will be managing an important water for the environment delivery to Reedy Lagoon, one of the most valued wetlands in Gunbower Forest.

Why top-up Reedy Lagoon?

Reedy Lagoon is one of the healthiest wetlands in Gunbower Forest in terms of the diversity of wetland plants, habitat for small-bodied native fish and a haven for waterbirds. During monitoring last year, fish ecologists found some of the biggest and healthiest Murray-Darling rainbowfish (listed as vulnerable) they had ever seen!

By now, most of the wetlands in Gunbower Forest are either completely dry or contain only small pools. Reedy Lagoon has drawn right down to a residual pool.

Topping up the lagoon will support native fish and provide over-wintering habitat in the forest for waterbirds and turtles. It is also an important refuge for other animals in the forest, such as emus and kangaroos.



Murray-Darling rainbowfish (Photo: Clayton Sharpe)

Water for the environment delivery

Reedy Lagoon will be topped-up with water for the environment starting in late-May. Water will be delivered directly to the wetland via the Reedy Lagoon Regulator on Gunbower Creek (see map over page).

The top-up will be closely monitored by North Central CMA staff to determine the most appropriate time to finish the delivery. It is expected to take up to four weeks to fill depending on flow rates and water levels in Gunbower Creek. An estimated 600-700 ML of water for the environment will be required to reach the target water levels.

How will the watering impact forest users?

The delivery of water for the environment to Reedy Lagoon will not impact access to Gunbower Forest.

For the latest information about domestic firewood collection areas and regulations governing firewood collection, please contact DELWP on 136 186 or visit www.delwp.vic.gov.au.

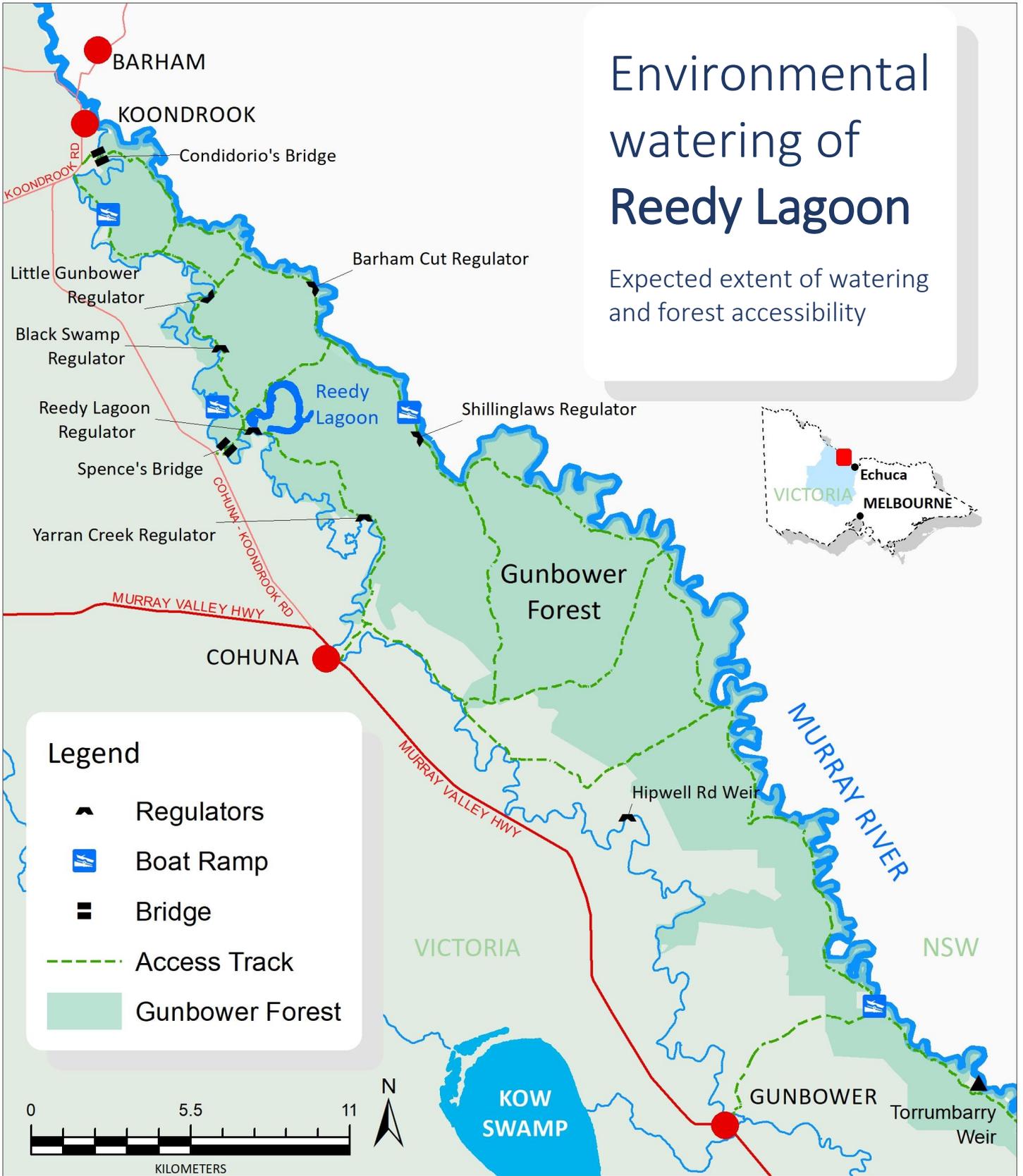
For further information about environmental watering contact the North Central CMA on (03) 5448 7124 or visit www.nccma.vic.gov.au.



Reedy Lagoon after watering in 2018 (Photo: NCCMA)

Environmental watering of Reedy Lagoon

Expected extent of watering and forest accessibility



The Flooding for Life project is delivered by the North Central Catchment Management Authority (CMA) in partnership with Goulburn–Murray Water, Murray-Darling Basin Authority, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) and Parks Victoria. It is part of The Living Murray program, a joint initiative of the New South Wales, Victorian, South Australian, Australian Capital Territory and the Commonwealth governments, coordinated by the Murray–Darling Basin Authority (MDBA). Environmental water releases at Gunbower Forest are made in line with the Victorian Environmental Water Holder's *Seasonal Watering Plan* for 2018-19, which aims to improve river and wetland health across the State.