

Construction Underway at Katfish Reach



Eckert Creek South Arm Road Crossing Regulator

Design of the new regulator to be constructed at the Eckert Creek South Arm Road Crossing to improve water flow and the movement of native fish.

Construction of surface water management infrastructure has commenced within the Katfish Reach area. Katfish Reach is a community rehabilitation project delivered in partnership between the community and Natural Resources, South Australian Murray-Darling Basin (SAMDB). The project area is located within Katarapko a part of the Murray River National Park.

The Katfish Reach Steering Group has been involved in the investigation, planning and design of the water management infrastructure, including a new regulator, fishway, boxed culvert and bridge, which will improve the flow of water and movement of native fish through Katarapko and Eckert Creek and other associated creeks and waterways. Kevin Smith, Chairperson of the Katfish Reach Steering Group said the Group has been working diligently towards these on-ground works at Katfish Reach.

“They will significantly improve the health of the area, where we will see better response to tree health, improved native fish and frog numbers and diversity of waterbirds” said Mr Smith.

Large bodied Native fish species such as Golden perch, Silver perch and Freshwater catfish will greatly benefit from the on-ground works which will improve both water flow and fish passage within the system, allowing fish species increased access within the anabranch where previously there were pipes and blocking banks. This will allow native fish to follow the natural movement cues for breeding with the aim of improving native fish numbers.

Infrastructure to manage water flow will allow water levels within the creeks, floodplain and wetlands to be manipulated, to mimic the natural cycle for improved health of River red gums, black box and other floodplain vegetation. Frogs and waterbirds will also greatly benefit, providing the cues needed for breeding.

Phillip Strachan, District Manager Riverland said sections of Katarapko have been closed for construction, which includes the Eckerts Creek section, and an area of Crown Lands adjacent to the Lock 4 section of Katarapko. It is expected these sections will remain closed until June 2015.

“Sites within Katarapko, Murray River National park under construction include Log Crossing, Stone Weir, Eckert Creek South Arm Road Crossing and Eckert Creek Bridge. Access to these areas are restricted during construction and it is asked that the public respect these rules and observe the signs during this period when visiting the Park” said Mr Strachan.

The construction of infrastructure is part of the \$100 million Riverine Recovery Project (RRP), funded by the Australian and South Australian Governments.

For further information on the Katfish Reach Project, please contact:

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Photo 1: Excavation equipment onsite at Katfish Reach for the start of construction of a package of surface water management infrastructure.



Photo 2: Preparation works has commenced at Katfish Reach.