

# FACT SHEET

January 2006



## Impact on the Lake Burrumbeet Catchment

- The decision on Lake Wendouree's water supply option has been made taking the environmental and social impacts of the project into consideration.
- The 230 ML (megalitres) of storm water that will be diverted from Paul's Drain would previously have been discharged into Burrumbeet Creek. The proposed diversion will involve taking the constant low flows from the drain and allowing high flows to pass to the creek.
- It should be noted that the flows into Burrumbeet Creek have increased due to an area of 460 Hectares of urban development yielding an estimated additional 815 ML /annum compared with pre-development natural flows.
- The North Ballarat Waste Water Treatment Plant currently discharges 2,000 ML /annum into Burrumbeet Creek. This averages 6 ML/day. The proposed water supply to Lake Wendouree will reduce this from 6 to 4 ML/ day for 10 months of the year. The source of the wastewater is the Moorabool System with Ballarat's water supply drawing from the upper Moorabool (fed to White Swan) and from Lal Lal reservoir on the Lower Moorabool. This discharge is therefore an unnatural cross basin flow to Burrumbeet Creek.
- The total diversions of storm and treated wastewater from Burrumbeet Creek represents an annual total of 830 ML over 12 months of the year. The impact of this volume not reaching Lake Burrumbeet (not considering channel and evaporation losses) equates to a depth of 35mm.
- Lake Burrumbeet aquatic activities have been severely compromised since the summer of 1997-1998 and the lake dried out in March 2004. Much of the angling, yachting, sailboarding and canoeing has been lost from the region since 2003, as Lake Burrumbeet, Lake Learmonth and Lake Wendouree have suffered from inadequate depth to allow these activities. The water supply to Lake Wendouree will re-establish these activities within the Ballarat Region, as most aquatic sport has been to coastal areas or to the Murray and Goulbourn Rivers.
- Consultation by the Lake Wendouree Water Supply Task Group with the Lake Burrumbeet Advisory Committee took place in early December 2005.