










## Variation to the Seasonal Watering Plan 2020-21

This variation was made to Section 5.7.2 Boort wetlands of the Seasonal Watering Plan 2020-21 by the VEWH Commission on 17 March 2021.

### 5.7.2 Boort wetlands

Amended text in Table 5.7.3 and Table 5.7.4 is shown in red.

**Table 5.7.3 Potential environmental watering actions and objectives for the Boort wetlands**

Potential environmental watering action	Functional watering objectives	Environmental objectives
Lake Meran (top-ups as required to maintain water level between 77.30 and 77.80m AHD)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase the water depth to maintain an appropriate water temperature for aquatic animals and provide a refuge for freshwater turtles, waterbirds and fish</li> <li>Provide dry areas (above 77.8 m AHD) to promote the growth and increase the extent of herbland vegetation around the wetland fringe</li> <li>Top-ups will most likely be required in late winter, spring and autumn, but may be delivered year-round to maintain minimum water depth requirements for aquatic animals</li> </ul>	
Lake Meran (fill, if required in response to natural flooding)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide moisture to maintain mature trees in the intermittent swampy woodland on the wetland fringe</li> <li>Provide deep, open water to support the feeding of deep-water foraging waterbirds and support breeding of colonial nesting birds</li> </ul>	
Lake Yando (partial fill in late winter/spring) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wet the wetland fringe to promote the germination and recruitment of river red gums and maintain the existing mature trees</li> <li>Support the growth of culturally significant aquatic and semi-aquatic plants</li> <li>Provide habitat and food resources for aquatic animals</li> <li>Grow zooplankton and waterbug communities to provide food for waterbirds and frogs</li> </ul>	
Lake Yando (top-up in summer) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wet the wetland fringe to support the recruitment and growth of river red gum saplings and maintain the existing mature trees</li> <li>Support the growth of culturally significant aquatic and semi-aquatic plants</li> </ul>	
Lake Leaghur (partial fill in autumn/winter) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prime the wetland for spring watering in 2021–22 by stimulating the early germination of wetland vegetation and improving breeding and feeding habitat for waterbirds.</li> <li>Provide winter feeding conditions for waterbirds and frogs</li> <li>Reduce the volume of water required to fill the wetland in spring 2021–22</li> <li>Support the growth of culturally significant aquatic and semi-aquatic plants</li> <li>Grow zooplankton and waterbug communities to provide food for waterbirds and frogs</li> </ul>	
Lake Yando and Lake Leaghur (top-ups as required, if significant waterbird breeding occurs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain shallow-water habitat under tree canopies to ensure adequate food resources for nesting waterbirds and their chicks</li> <li>Top-ups will most likely be required over late spring/summer but may be delivered at other times if required</li> </ul>	

**Table 5.7.4 Potential environmental watering for the Boort wetlands under a range of planning scenarios**

Planning scenario	Drought	Dry	Average	Wet
Expected river conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No natural inflows to wetlands</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minimal natural inflows to wetlands from local catchment runoff possible</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Periods of high flow combined with localised catchment contributions, which are expected to provide minor inflows to wetlands</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Extended durations of high flow and overbank flow from creeks and flood runners, which fill most wetlands</li> </ul>
Potential environmental watering – tier 1 <sup>1</sup> (high priorities) <sup>2</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lake Meran (top-ups)</li> <li>Lake Yando (partial fill)</li> <li>Lake Yando (top up)</li> <li>Lake Yando (top ups, if triggered)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lake Meran (top-ups)</li> <li>Lake Yando (partial fill)</li> <li>Lake Yando (top up)</li> <li>Lake Yando (top ups, if triggered)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lake Meran (top-ups)</li> <li>Lake Yando (partial fill)</li> <li>Lake Yando (top up)</li> <li>Lake Leaghur (partial fill)</li> <li>Lake Yando and Lake Leaghur (top ups, if triggered)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lake Meran (top-ups)</li> <li>Lake Meran (fill, if required)</li> <li>Lake Yando (partial fill)</li> <li>Lake Yando (top up)</li> <li>Lake Leaghur (partial fill)</li> <li>Lake Yando and Lake Leaghur (top ups, if triggered)</li> </ul>
Potential environmental watering – tier 2 (additional priorities) <sup>2</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lake Leaghur (partial fill)</li> <li>Lake Leaghur (top ups, if triggered)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lake Leaghur (partial fill)</li> <li>Lake Leaghur (top ups, if triggered)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>N/A</li> </ul>	
Possible volume of environmental water required to achieve objectives <sup>3</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3,400 ML (tier 1)</li> <li>2,000 ML (tier 2)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3,400 ML (tier 1)</li> <li>2,000 ML (tier 2)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5,400 ML (tier 1)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5,400–11,400 ML (tier 1)</li> </ul>

1. Tier 1 potential environmental watering for the Boort wetlands is not classified as tier 1a or 1b because the water available for use is shared across various systems and it is not possible to reliably determine the supply specifically available for the Boort wetlands
2. Wetlands are listed in priority order for tier 1 and tier 2 under all scenarios.
3. Environmental water requirements for tier 2 actions are additional to tier 1 requirements.