



MEDIA RELEASE

Donald Weir Pool Steering Committee Formed

29 June 2016

Work on providing the Donald Weir Pool with a supplementary supply from the Wimmera Mallee Pipeline has commenced and a steering committee formed. The committee includes members from Grampians Wimmera Mallee Water, Buloke Shire Council, North Central Catchment Management Authority, Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources, Department of Environment, Water, Land and Planning, Donald 2000, VRFish, Landcare and local residents. The group recently held its first meeting to discuss project plans, opportunities and potential risks of releasing top-up water into the Weir Pool. The group will continue to meet monthly.

A structural inspection of the Weir has been scheduled and a clean-up of the river area, in preparation for the water release is currently being organised. Water is expected to be released by December 2016.

Donald 2000 President, John McConville, a member of the committee said "I am extremely pleased with the progress of the project. The successful release of water into the Weir will be a valuable asset to our town, improving aesthetics and adding to the local economy through an increase in tourism. The dry river has been unsightly and of concern to many residents and businesses over the drought period".

"There is some concern about the potential effect on groundwater levels in the area. The committee discussed these at length and several hydrogeological specialists and local experts are being consulted to ensure adequate monitoring is implemented. This is necessary to ascertain the effect, if any, on river health and the surrounding groundwater system".

Community information sessions will be held at key stages throughout the project. The first session is anticipated to occur in August, once project plans are available.

This project has received \$170,000 from the \$10 million Drought Support Fund announced by the Victorian Government in March 2016.

End release

For further information contact Media and Communications Officer, Travis Fitzgibbon on 1300 520 520.