



# Proposed Guilfus Congupna Drainage Course Declaration information

January 2020

## What are the ownership arrangements once obstruction works are completed?

Assets installed as part of removing obstructions will be handed over at the end of the works program. For example, works on private property, such as farm occupational crossings, will be owned by landowners; while road culverts will be owned by relevant Local Governments.

## Can I discuss the DCD or proposed obstruction programme with GMW?

Yes, GMW's Drainage team is available to discuss any questions you have about the DCD proposal or proposed works on your property. You can contact us either over the phone, arrange an on-farm visit or see us at our proposed community drop-in session, which will be held at **Congupna Community Centre on 30th January 2020**.

## So where is the DCD process up to and what are the next steps?

Now that the DCD investigation and planning work is largely complete, GMW has commenced the formal process to make an application to declare the drainage course. We are now at the start of a 6-week period where landowners and key organisations (e.g. local governments) can consider and comment on the proposed DCD.

Once this period is complete, GMW will apply to the Minister for Water to declare the Guilfus Congupna DCD. Depending on when the DCD is declared, it is expected that an obstruction removal works program will get underway in Spring 2020.

## Why is this surface drainage program different?

Goulburn-Murray Water (GMW) is delivering an externally-funded surface drainage program in partnership with Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority (GB CMA). The program is focussing on a new, low-cost approach to improving natural drainage; based on declaring drainage courses (DCDs) under Victoria's *Water Act 1989* (the Act).

## What are the benefits of a DCD?

DCDs are a cost effective way of providing drainage in irrigation areas. Declaring a drainage course allows obstructions to be removed or modified to restore flow paths and allows water to move through a drainage course as it would do under natural conditions. Better drainage provides agricultural benefits such as reduced inundation, waterlogging and salinity impacts, as well as other benefits such as reduced impacts to roads.

Importantly, a DCD provides future protection from any works that will affect flow in the drainage course; and gives GMW the authority for its management.

## Why was the Guilfus Congupna catchment selected for a DCD?

The Guilfus Congupna catchment was identified as a priority area in the GB CMA's 2015 Shepparton Irrigation Region (SIR) Drainage Strategy review. The Guilfus

Congupna catchment was endorsed by GB CMA's SIR Drainage Working Group to be included in the new Drainage Program, based on strong community support and technical suitability. The catchment is actively irrigated and serviced by a modernised channel network.

## What work has occurred already to develop the DCD?

Since March 2018, a DCD project has been extensively investigated; including detailed survey and modelling work.

On-farm visits were undertaken with 108 catchment landowners to discuss the proposed DCD and obstruction removal program. These meetings provided valuable information about local drainage issues, more accurately identifying potential obstructions and improved DCD modelling. These meetings also confirmed strong community support for the Guilfus Congupna DCD project (with over 99% of landowners confirming their support for a DCD).

Consultation is also occurring with Greater Shepparton City Council to agree on road culvert design standards which meet both DCD and local government requirements.

The Guilfus Congupna DCD was recently endorsed by GB CMA's SIR People and Planning Integration Committee on the basis that the project is supported by the community, and is technically and economically feasible.



## Proposed Guilfus Congupna DCD extent

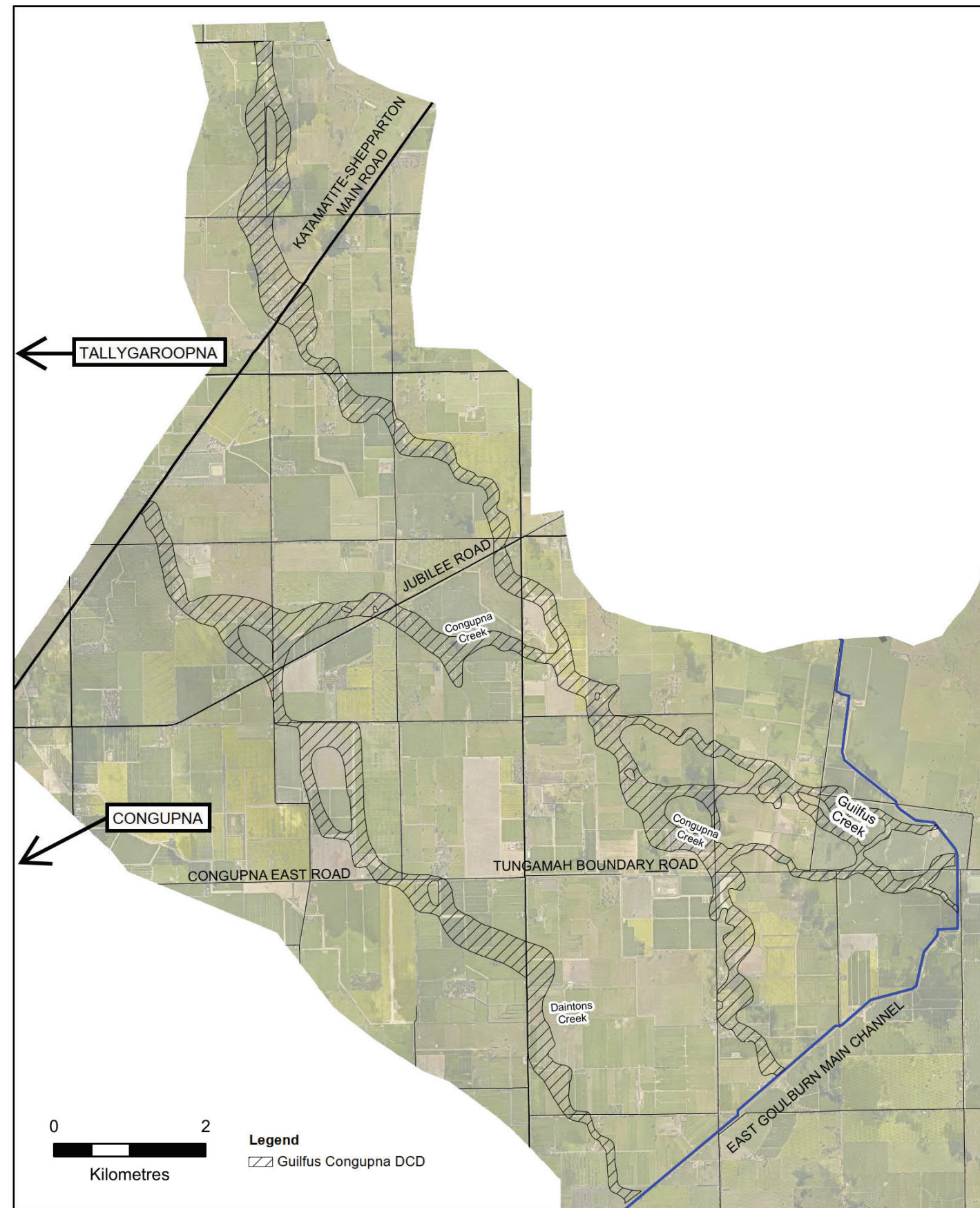


Figure 1.

### How much area will the proposed Guilfus Congupna DCD cover?

The proposed DCD sections for Guilfus Creek and Congupna Creek will be approximately 17.5 km and 15.1 km in length, respectively. The DCD section of Daintons Creek flowing into Congupna Creek will be approximately 10.8 km in length. The DCD also consists of about 11.5 km of anabranches and meander loops comprising a total DCD length of around 55 km.

The proposed DCD will service a total catchment area of approximately 34,767 ha, covering approximately 170 land parcels over an area of approximately 7,467 ha between East Goulburn Main Channel and the two outfalls into Shepparton Drain 2/11 at Shepparton-Katamatite Road and Shepparton Drain 12 at Boundary Road.

The proposed Guilfus Congupna DCD extent is shown on Figure 1.

### What is the DCD's capacity going to be and what service will it provide?

The proposed DCD and structures will be designed to carry the peak flow resulting from 50mm of rainfall falling in 24 hours (approximately a 1 in 2 year event) to match the capacity of the outfall.

The drainage 'service' provided by the DCD relies on GMW removing or modifying existing structures within the depression and having ongoing responsibility to keep the DCD clear of artificial obstructions.

### What are obstruction works and how will I know if these affect me?

GMW has identified obstructions to the proposed DCD design flow, which will require either a new or changed structure to allow this flow to pass. At this stage the scope of Guilfus Congupna obstruction program includes 3 road crossing upgrades, 3 farm occupational crossings, 6 existing road crossings to be remediated (clean and beached), 1 private channel subway, 5 private works sites, 2 ford crossings, 8

bank removals and 8 other remediation sites removing cumbungi and/or debris.

You will have received a letter advising you that the process to declare the drainage course has started. Maps attached to this letter show the proposed DCD extent and the locations of obstructions needing to be modified as part of implementing the DCD.

In addition to the obstruction works, some existing farm structures will require remediation works. The scope and detailed design of this work will be defined in more detail during DCD implementation in the coming months. An example of remediation could be cleaning out an existing pipe under a farm laneway and beaching upstream and downstream of the pipe within the natural depression. GMW's Drainage team will arrange an on-farm visit to discuss remediation works if any are required on your property.

### How will I be informed if works are required on my property?

If works are required to treat obstructions on your property, you may have already had initial discussions with a member of GMW's Drainage team. Included with your DCD notification letter is a map and an information table showing the locations of obstructions needing to be modified once the drainage course is declared. You will also receive specific advice after the DCD is declared which confirms the nature of the works required on your property, if this applies to you. Following this advice, GMW's Drainage team will discuss identified obstruction works, and any minor remediation works, as part of individual on-farm visits.

### How will these works affect my on-farm operations?

GMW will schedule works in close consultation with landowners to ensure there is as little disruption to farm operations as possible. GMW will consult with landowners in preparation for the proposed obstruction works program, as well as during and after construction.



### Key steps in the Guilfus Congupna DCD process