CANDOWIE RESERVOIR NORTH ARM WATER SUPPLY CATCHMENT

The proposed Candowie Reservoir No. 2 an offstream storage, is proposed to be located on a tributary of the Bass River, north of the already proclaimed catchment of Tennent Creek which supplies Candowie Reservoir No. 1 (Victorian Government Gazette, No. 57, 13 June 1979).

The Catchment

The natural catchment to the proposed reservoir is relatively small (226 ha), the topography of which is comprised of moderate hills. The catchment areas has a geology of cretaceous sediments with some tertiary alluvial cappings. Brown gradational soils have developed on the cretaceous sediments.

The areas has been extensively cleared, remnant vegetate in the area consists of mountain ash, messmate and blue gum, with an understorey of blackwood and other acacias. The majority of the catchment carries improved pasture.

Elevation/Rainfall

Almurta 35 m 1027 mm

Land Tenure and Use

The catchment is approximately 50% private and 50% public land. Private land is used or mixed grazing and dairying. The Westernport Water Board own the majority of land on which the reservoir will be located as well as a substantial buffer strip around it above the fully supply level.

Water Supply System

The proposed storage (4,700 ML) will be used as an off stream storage, augmenting the existing storage (23,000 ML). The two storages will be connected via a pipeline. This supply is used to service a number of settlements along Westernport Bay and on Phillip Island (a total population of 5,500). During the tourist season (December to April) a population of up to 35,000 may be supplied from these storages. The raw water from the reservoir has high levels of turbidity and colour as well as relatively high concentrations of manganese, iron, nitrogen and phosphorus. Algal blooms occur regularly on the reservoir during summer which further decreases water quality, runoff from the surrounding agricultural land is believed to significantly contribute to the high ionic and nutrient concentrations. A treatment plant has recently been installed and this has resulted in a major improvement of water quality – had a dramatic effect on water quality. The supply is chlorinated.

The Westernport Water Board is the responsible water supply authority.

Administrative Areas

Parishes: Corinella, Jumbunna

Municipalities: Shire of Bass.

Recommendations

That the Land Conservation Council, under section 5 (1) (b) of the Land Conservation Act 1970, recommend to the Governor-in-Council that the following catchments be proclaimed under section 22 (1) of the Soil Conservation and Land Utilization Act 1958:

Candowie Reservoir North Arm, Water Supply Catchment, Plan No. S-1503.

PLAN No. S-1503

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