

PURPOSE AND AREA OF SURVEY

Lake Eildon is one of the major storages built to supply irrigation systems and to provide flood control in the Murray River system. It also provides hydro-electric power for the Victorian network.

The lake has been formed by the construction of an earth and rock dam across the Goulburn River, immediately downstream from the confluences of several major tributaries. The townships of Eildon and Thornton lie in the valley below the dam. The nearest large town is Alexandra, twenty-four kilometres down the valley, and 129 kilometres north-east of Melbourne, on the Maroondah Highway.



Plate 2 – Lake Eildon has been formed by the construction of an earth and rock dam

Because of the great importance of the catchment water and other resources, correct management of the catchment land is necessary. The Soil Conservation Authority is responsible for determining the use of land, consequent upon the 1957 proclamation of the Upper Goulburn catchment. This report is primarily intended to provide the Authority with basic information necessary for the discharge of its responsibility.

The total area of the catchment is approximately 3900 square kilometres, comprising the Upper Goulburn catchment and the basins of the Big, Jamieson, and Wonnangatta. In places the terrain is rugged, and altitudes range from 300 metres to 1800 metres. Most of the country is forested.

In Part II of this report, basic information about the environment is presented. Because of the size and diversity of the total catchment, the usefulness of general statements is limited and smaller, more uniform areas, were selected to consider problems of land use. This is done in Part III in terms of land systems, which are areas with a relatively consistent pattern of environmental features. In Parts IV and V, problems of land use are discussed.