

24 January 2020

Essential Services Commission  
Level 37, 2 Lonsdale Street  
Melbourne VIC 3000

Dear Commission

**Goulburn-Murray Water's price submission**

North Central CMA, as the caretakers of the region's river health are pleased to see the inclusion of the construction of the Cohuna Weir Fishway in GMWs pricing submission.

The Gunbower Creek is an important economic and environmental asset to the region. The creek provides a diverse range of habitats which support regionally important populations of threatened fish species such as; Murray cod and Golden perch as well as a high diversity of frog and waterbird species. The provision of fish passage along the entire length of Gunbower Creek has been considered a high ecological priority to assist in achieving the ecological objectives for the Gunbower Forest and Gunbower Creek and is a key component of our Native Fish Recovery Plan.

North Central CMA was disappointed that construction of the Cohuna Weir fishway was not constructed as planned in the previous water plan.

North Central CMA's strong partnership with GMW in the design and construction of the Koondrook Weir and Cohuna Weir Fishways will provide efficiencies for both projects and also lessen the ecological impact on the Gunbower Creek fish population.

If you have any questions, please call me on (03) 5448 7124.

Yours sincerely

**Rachel Murphy**

Executive Manager – Program Delivery

