



Australian Government

Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder



Monitoring Evaluation Research



### Selected Area Outcomes Highlights Issue 15 (January - March 2023)



#### Junction of Warrego and Darling [Link to newsletters](#)

- Murray River turtles are being tracked to better understand their movements from the Gwydir River through to the Lower Murray.
- Juvenile golden perch, Hyrtl's tandan catfish, bony bream, sprangled perch and rainbowfish were found in floodplain waterholes during surveys to better understand the Western Floodplain ecology.

#### Gwydir River System [Link to newsletters](#)

- Surveys were undertaken to monitor the progress of waterbird breeding key sites, with an estimated 55,000 individual nests occupied supporting large numbers of egrets, herons, cormorants and ibis.
- Nationally endangered Australian painted snipe, migratory Latham's snipe, black-tailed godwit, little curlew and sharp-tailed sandpiper were located in Gingham Channel, with the area supporting good waterbird numbers through drying conditions.

#### Lachlan River System [Link to newsletters](#)

- Pelican nesting has occurred at Brewster during Autumn, following the earlier large nesting event in Spring. The Summer refresh from Wyangala Dam maintained local food resources and water levels at the breeding site.
- Surveys at Lake Brewster have shown breeding of several fish species in the favourable conditions, including noticeable cohorts of young native hardyhead and flathead gudgeon.

#### Murrumbidgee River System [Link to newsletters](#)

- Research on the endangered southern bell frog to determine their survival rates against Amphibian Chytrid Fungus is providing information to be used for ongoing management scenarios.
- Monitoring of the Lowbidgee floodplain, mid-Murrumbidgee, and Yanko Creek system detected the Eastern long-necked, broad-shelled, and Murray River short neck turtles.

#### Edward/Kolety-Wakool river system [Link to newsletters](#)

- Following the floods, fish recruitment monitoring detected some juvenile golden perch that are likely to have been spawned elsewhere in the MDB and have moved into the Wakool to use it as a nursery to feed and grow.
- Photos from field cameras installed in Werai Forest are providing valuable information about inundation of the area. The photos will be used by the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder to inform environmental watering, Traditional Owners to manage and conserve cultural resources, and assist management of the Werai Ramsar wetland site.

#### Goulburn River [Link to newsletters](#)

- Vegetation sampling has shown benches and mid banks experiencing significant growth, indicating a positive response to recent flooding.
- Surveys after flooding have shown both substantial sediment deposits in areas such as riverbanks and sandbars, and erosion in more vulnerable areas such as steep sections of bank, likely due to the complete inundation and drawdown of water after flood.

#### Lower Murray River [Link to newsletters](#)

- Stream metabolism and zooplankton sampling is occurring at regular downstream sites to determine productivity responses in the area to flood recession.
- An Electrofishing Field Demonstration held in Renmark, provided approx. 70 local community members and recreational fishers the opportunity to learn about this important research technique.