



Australian Government

Commonwealth Environmental Water Office

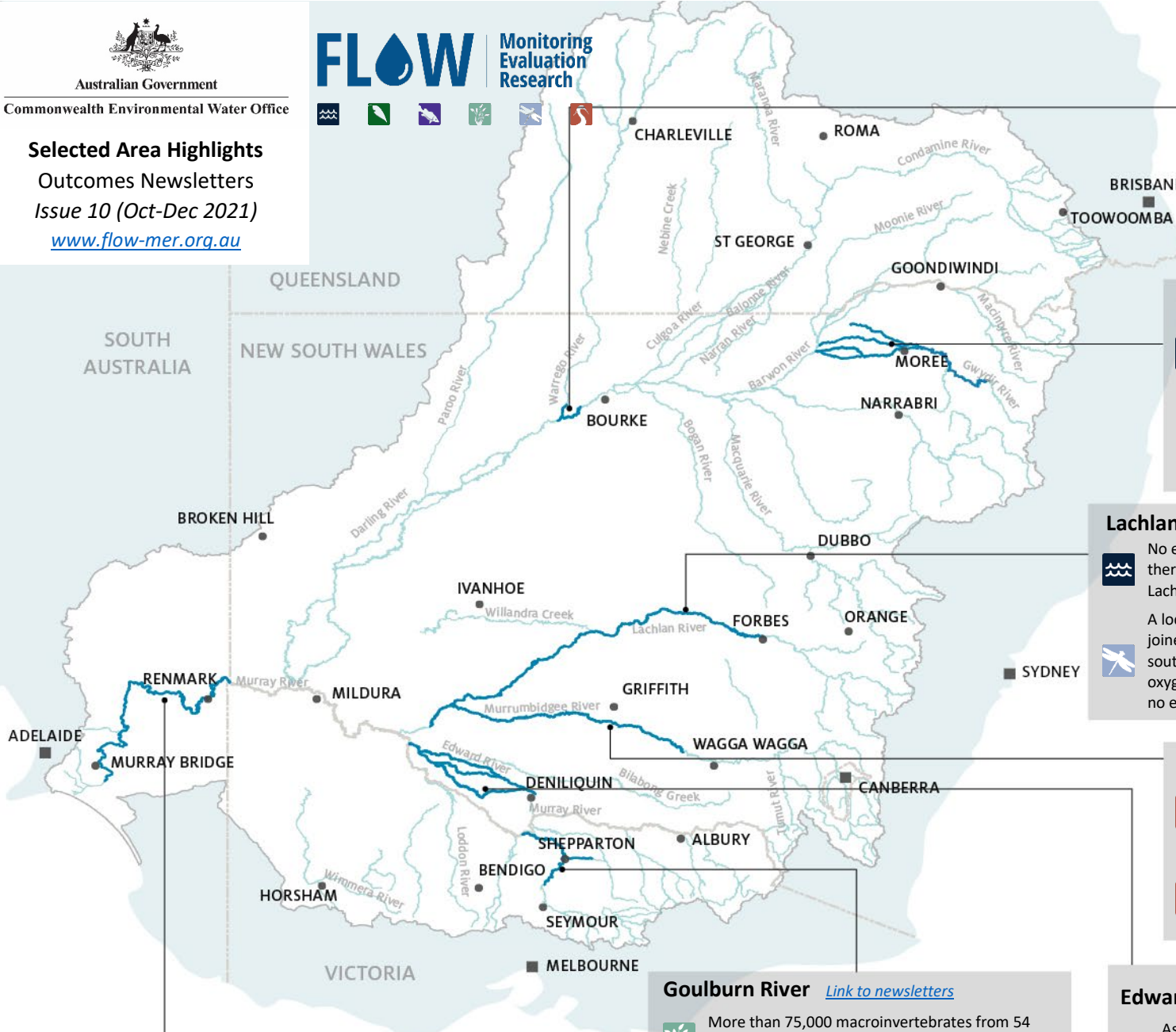
**FLOW** Monitoring Evaluation Research



### Selected Area Highlights

Outcomes Newsletters  
Issue 10 (Oct-Dec 2021)

[www.flow-mer.org.au](http://www.flow-mer.org.au)



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



Flow pulses through the Warrego River have inundated the Western Floodplain connecting the Warrego and Darling rivers.



Heavy flowering, budding and other reproductive activity has occurred in various tree species in response to the recent rainfall.

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



Good river flows and flow pulses have contributed to prolonged inundation of Ramsar sites, continued healthy vegetation and the presence of endangered, threatened and migratory waterbirds.



Vegetation surveys have found that the wetlands in Mallowa appear to be in a particularly healthy state.



Fish sampling in the channels found Murray Cod and Golden Perch recruits along with loads of yabbies and shrimp.

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



No environmental watering actions were needed in the last quarter of 2021 as there was above average rainfall in the catchment and high inflows into the Lachlan's major reservoirs. Nature taking the lead!

A local Wiradyuri community member has received water monitoring training, and joined water managers to establish monitoring sites along the Bunduburra system south of Forbes. Three sites were found to have critically low levels of dissolved oxygen, but luckily subsequent monitoring found improved dissolved oxygen and no evidence of fish mortality.



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



Threatened Southern Bell frogs were recorded breeding at Waugorah swamp for the first time since 2008, thanks to a wet spring and large environmental water deliveries.



Motion sensitive camera traps set at 13 sites across the Yanco Creek System have photographed rakali, a secretive, semi-aquatic native rodent. Multiple individuals were observed checking out a tin of sardines, grooming themselves or resting between dives.

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



More than 75,000 macroinvertebrates from 54 different taxa were collected during the 2020-21 sampling periods.



Spawning of Golden Perch was detected coinciding with the delivery of environmental water in mid-October and again in late November.



Based off seven years of data, it is estimated that CEW has produced nearly a quarter of the organic carbon produced in the Goulburn River.

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



As part of Werai Forest inundation modelling, the team have analysed hydrology and imagery from 2016 to present to help us understand the relationship between river flow and wetland inundation extent.



Water was delivered throughout the Edward/Kooley-Wakool system in September and December to create refuges of better water quality to support native fish, crayfish and other aquatic animals. Monitoring will enable us to assess the outcomes of this environmental water delivery.

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



Annual sampling has identified a good amount of Golden Perch and Silver Perch eggs in late October and November, and varying sizes and number of Perch larvae towards the end of the year.



Flow-MER plant and fish ecologists attended a successful Indigenous Ecology in Action workshop for Indigenous and non-Indigenous students to learn about western scientific methods and traditional culture and knowledge.