



Australian Government



Commonwealth Environmental Water Office

### Selected Area Highlights

Outcomes Newsletters

Issue 11 (Jan-Mar 2022)

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



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



Dissolved oxygen levels in the Barwon and Darling Rivers dropped as floodwaters moved through the system in December, but improved and stabilised at all but one site through to March.



Around 40 broad-shelled and Murray River turtles of various ages were caught at sites on the Warrego River for the MER Team's turtle research project.

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



Environmental water and local rainfall have contributed to continued moderate flows down the Mehi River and into Mallowa Creek, providing wetland inundation in the Mallowa Creek system for vegetation outcomes and foraging habitat for waterbirds.



Water for the environment has supported waterbirds breeding in significant numbers in the Gwydir Wetlands, for the first time in a decade.

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



An environmental watering strategy has been taking place to maintain Lake Brewster storage at around 103%, in order to maintain water levels for a large (>20,000) pelican breeding colony.



The Down the Track Program at Lake Cargelligo was held for the first time in 12 months after delays due to COVID-19 restrictions. Participants joined scientists to learn how to perform vegetation surveys, fly drones, use fyke nets, and more!

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



Grey snake surveys took place across 5 weeks in the Lowbidgee floodplain. The species was considered locally extinct in the Lowbidgee until 2018, when the MER team found individuals whilst surveying for southern bell frogs.



The MER Team and CEWO representatives discussed the importance of water for the environment and led wetland wildlife spotting activities for the community at the Yanco Creek wetland field day in March.

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



Findings from a hydrological study of the south-eastern part of Werai Forest support that upgrading forest regulators will enable environmental water to be delivered to inundate a substantial part of the forest and help to restore the forest ecosystem.



Multispectral drone mapping and ground cover surveys were conducted in Werai Forest to determine if we can effectively assess ground cover vegetation and the response of vegetation to environmental water delivery using drones.



Field experiments were carried out from November 2021 to January 2022 to examine the response of primary production to an unregulated flow pulse that inundated areas within Werai Forest.

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



Fyke net and electrofishing sampling detected good numbers of young-of-the-year (YOY) golden perch, demonstrating strong recruitment for the first time in years.



Targeted electrofishing found Murray cod 2+ years old were in moderate-high numbers relative to past years, however only low numbers (less than 5) of YOY cod were detected.

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



Low summer flows have provided favourable conditions for the recovery of littoral vegetation.



Trout cod were collected and tagged with radio transmitters, with the characteristics of habitats used by trout cod over time recorded.



Macroinvertebrate sampling has found prawns, shrimps and yabbies, with a noticeable increase in the abundance of juvenile shrimp and prawns.