



Australian Government

Commonwealth Environmental Water Office



Selected Area Highlights

Outcomes Newsletters

Issue 13 (July-September 2022)

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



Spangled perch and bony herring responded well following recent high flows, with abundance of fish four times more than than observed in the previous two years combined



Survival of lignum seedlings, as well as flowering of coolabah, blackbox and river cooba, following three years of good conditions highlights the link between inundation patterns and vegetation health and species richness /cover.

Gwydir River System [Link to newsletters](#)



Environmental water in the Mallowa wetlands contributed to improved condition by increasing the lateral extent and duration of inundation received in the river cooba – lignum shrubland community.



The Gwydir wetland system supported at least five vulnerable species, two endangered species (black-necked stork and Australian painted snipe) and several species listed on international migratory bird agreements over the previous year.

Lachlan River System [Link to newsletters](#)



Nankeen night herons (both adults and juveniles) were regularly observed being active during daylight hours, despite their usual nocturnal habits. This appears to follow the increase in resources resulting from the wet period starting in 2020.



Machine learning was used to estimate the percent cover of reeds and compare sites that received environmental water with those that have not. The sites that received environmental water had a greater cover of reeds.

Murrumbidgee River System [Link to newsletters](#)



Fish surveys across the catchment detected golden perch, Murray cod, flat-headed and carp gudgeon, Murray-Darling rainbowfish, freshwater catfish, unspotted hardyhead and smelt.



Results from an amphibian chytrid fungus study were published, showing a relatively low infection prevalence of 8%, with prevalence and intensity impacted by water temperature, pH and salinity levels.

Edward/Koety–Wakool river system [Link to newsletters](#)



Environmental water was delivered through several MIL irrigation escapes into creeks to create areas of better quality water for fish, crayfish and other aquatic animals to mitigate the risk of low oxygen hypoxic blackwater.



Monitoring of fish populations in ephemeral creeks was undertaken by scientists and the Koety Werkul River Rangers from Yarkuwa Indigenous Knowledge Centre to inform environmental watering actions and assist decisions about future monitoring.



Environmental DNA surveys of six ephemeral creeks will characterise invertebrate biodiversity in these creek systems.

Goulburn River [Link to newsletters](#)



Baseflows between 700 and 1,000 ML/day were targeted between July and September to promote bank vegetation recovery and maintain habitat.



Radio-telemetry was used to determine the movement and habitat use of trout cod, including their use of cover at different times of the day.



Sweeps were conducted across several sites, providing important information on crustacean, macroinvertebrate and aquatic beetle numbers.

Lower Murray River [Link to newsletters](#)



Lower Murray had high flows, with flows at the South Australian border increasing from 43,000 ML/day in July to 75,000 ML/day by mid-October, may enable flow-cued spawners such as native perch to recruit.



On 16-17 September, more than 11,000 people attended the Riverland Field Day. The MER team spoke about the benefits of water for the environment, Flow-MER monitoring work and fish research.