



Australian Government

Commonwealth Environmental Water Office



Monitoring Evaluation Research

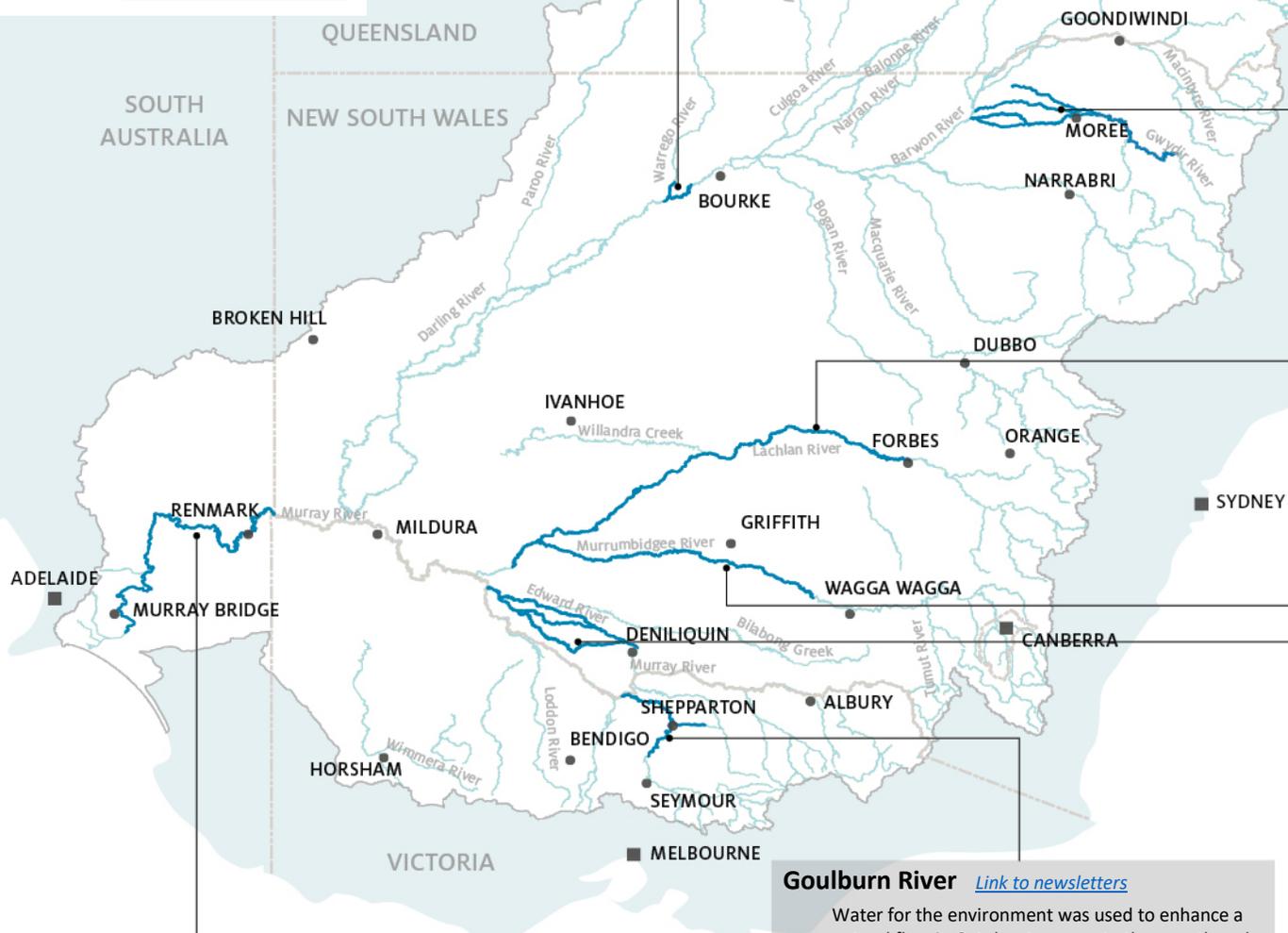


Selected Area Highlights

Outcomes Newsletters

Issue 6 (Oct-Dec 2020)

www.flow-mer.org.au



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

- November surveys showed relatively good ground cover from March-May flood events, though this cover was starting to dry.
- Night-time surveys revealed large numbers of Desert froglets at Dicks Dam due to a recent breeding event.
- Solar powered acoustic recorders were installed to capture the calls of frogs and other species for long term monitoring of their response to water.

Gwydir River System [Link to newsletters](#)

- The Bunnor site maintained a strong presence of key wetland plant species *Bulboschoenus*, *Phragmites* and *Typha*.
- Experiments are underway to analyse the influence of fire on both eggbank and seedbank response following inundation.
- Experiments are being conducted to better quantify photosynthesis and respiration rates in Northern Basin sites aiming to adapt the measurement of stream metabolism to fit with Basin requirements.

Lachlan River System [Link to newsletters](#)

- By measuring and then modelling how oxygen goes up and down over a day/night cycle we can work out how much energy is being produced and used in the river channel. This helps inform how water can be used to provide food in the river, especially for baby native fish like Murray cod.
- The greatest number of plant species on one site was recorded due to inundated conditions and higher than average rainfall - 82 plants, including 61 native species.
- Gudgeons are the most widespread small fishes in the Basin and it's likely they've played an important role in Australia's inland waterways for millennia. It's comforting to know there are still healthy populations in some rivers.

Murrumbidgee River System [Link to newsletters](#)

- Water for the environment triggered and supported breeding of over 18,000 straw-necked and glossy ibis nesting pairs at Eulimbah Swamp in Gayini Nimmie-Caira. Australasian bitterns, cormorants, darters, great crested grebes, eastern great egrets and nankeen night herons were found nesting at Yanga National Park, supported by water for the environment.
- Water for the environment has flowed into Avalon Dam, Gayini Nimmie-Caira, spilling into the lignum swamp and triggering widespread Southern bell frog calling activity. Adults were last recorded here in March 2018.

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

- Workshops were held at the Western Murray Land Improvement Group centre to give primary and secondary students hands-on experience of environmental science and river monitoring. Approximately 150 students from Barham High School, Barham Public School, Moulamein Public School, and Wakool Burraboi Public School attended the workshops.
- During the environmental watering actions in October and November a reduction in electrical conductivity (reduced saltiness of the water) and high dissolved oxygen concentrations were recorded, which means the water quality was good for fish and other aquatic animals.

Lower Murray River [Link to newsletters](#)

- Flow and Fishes of the Lower River Murray* - Watch this video to learn more about how and why flow is being restored, supported by water for the environment. www.flow-mer.org.au/selected-area-lower-murray
- Silver and golden perch eggs and larvae were found in sampling during and following the spring-early summer flow pulse, supported by water for the environment. Sampling for juveniles will take place in autumn.

Goulburn River [Link to newsletters](#)

- Water for the environment was used to enhance a natural flow in October to promote the growth and spread of bank vegetation. And to deliver a smaller flow in November to promote golden perch and silver perch spawning.
- Vigorous vegetation growth was observed across the mid-bank at most survey locations. Seedling germination was observed on bare mud flats and lower banks in December, following the flow in November.