



Australian Government

Commonwealth Environmental Water Office



Monitoring Evaluation Research



Selected Area Highlights

Outcomes Newsletters

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

- Groundcover abundance remained high, with floodplain trees and lignum in good condition, and River Cooba in flower.
- Native fish, frogs and turtles have been using refuge waterholes in the Warrego, with autumn flows helping fish feed, move and breed.
- Waterbirds including brolgas, sea eagles and sharp-tailed sandpipers were detected.

Gwydir River System [Link to newsletters](#)

- Waterbird surveys conducted in February recorded around 1,000 Magpie geese and found a small colony breeding around Goddard's Lease Ramsar site. Water for the environment helped maintain inundation to maximise breeding success.
- Water for the environment delivered during summer connected the Gwydir and the Barwon-Darling following four years of dry conditions. These flows helped native fish move between the two systems to breed and feed.

Lachlan River System [Link to newsletters](#)

- Golden perch larvae and juvenile fish were found for the first time in seven years of monitoring in the Lachlan. Good rainfall and a translucent flow occurred just at the right time, matching spawning requirements like temperature and time of year.
- Similar to previous years, electrofishing and netting detected Australian smelt, Bony herring, Carp gudgeon, Flathead gudgeon, Murray cod and Speckled hardyhead. A rare Silver perch, listed as vulnerable in NSW, was also found in the lower Lachlan river.

Murrumbidgee River System [Link to newsletters](#)

- Frogs responded well to the wet conditions, with recordings of all six expected species. More than 1,700 native swamp frog tadpoles were recorded in a single fyke net at Two Bridges Swamp.
- A strong wetland vegetation response was recorded, particularly species that tolerate deep water such as watermilfoil and spike rush.
- More than 18,000 breeding pairs of Straw-necked ibis took advantage of water for the environment that was delivered in spring. Water levels were maintained throughout the event to maximise breeding success.

Edward/Kolety-Wakool River System [Link to newsletters](#)

- Juvenile fish recruitment surveys have found Trout cod in Yallakool Creek for only the second time since monitoring began, River blackfish in both the Wakool River and Yallakool Creek, and large Silver perch in Yallakool Creek.
- Summer monitoring showed there was strong growth and survival of riverbank plants in areas that had been inundated with environmental water in spring. Increased flows and variability provided by water for the environment supported the germination, growth, and survival of riverbank plants in this system.

Goulburn River [Link to newsletters](#)

- Native fish are in the mood for love in the Goulburn, with record Golden and Silver perch spawning following early summer high flows, and Murray cod spawning over summer.
- Monitoring has shown that even small increases in flows can have positive benefits for stream metabolism, providing more food for fish and bugs.
- Lots of prawns, shrimps and yabbies were found in the river over summer – more food for people and fish!

Lower Murray River [Link to newsletters](#)

- Sampling found one-year-old Murray cod remained abundant following the large number of larvae and juvenile fish sampled last year.
- Field observations show that water for the environment increased native species richness of riverbank vegetation.
- Following higher flows in late spring, sampling found the greatest number of Silver perch larvae since monitoring began 10 years ago. Surveys have not yet detected juveniles, however monitoring continues.