



Australian Government

Commonwealth Environmental Water Office



Monitoring Evaluation Research

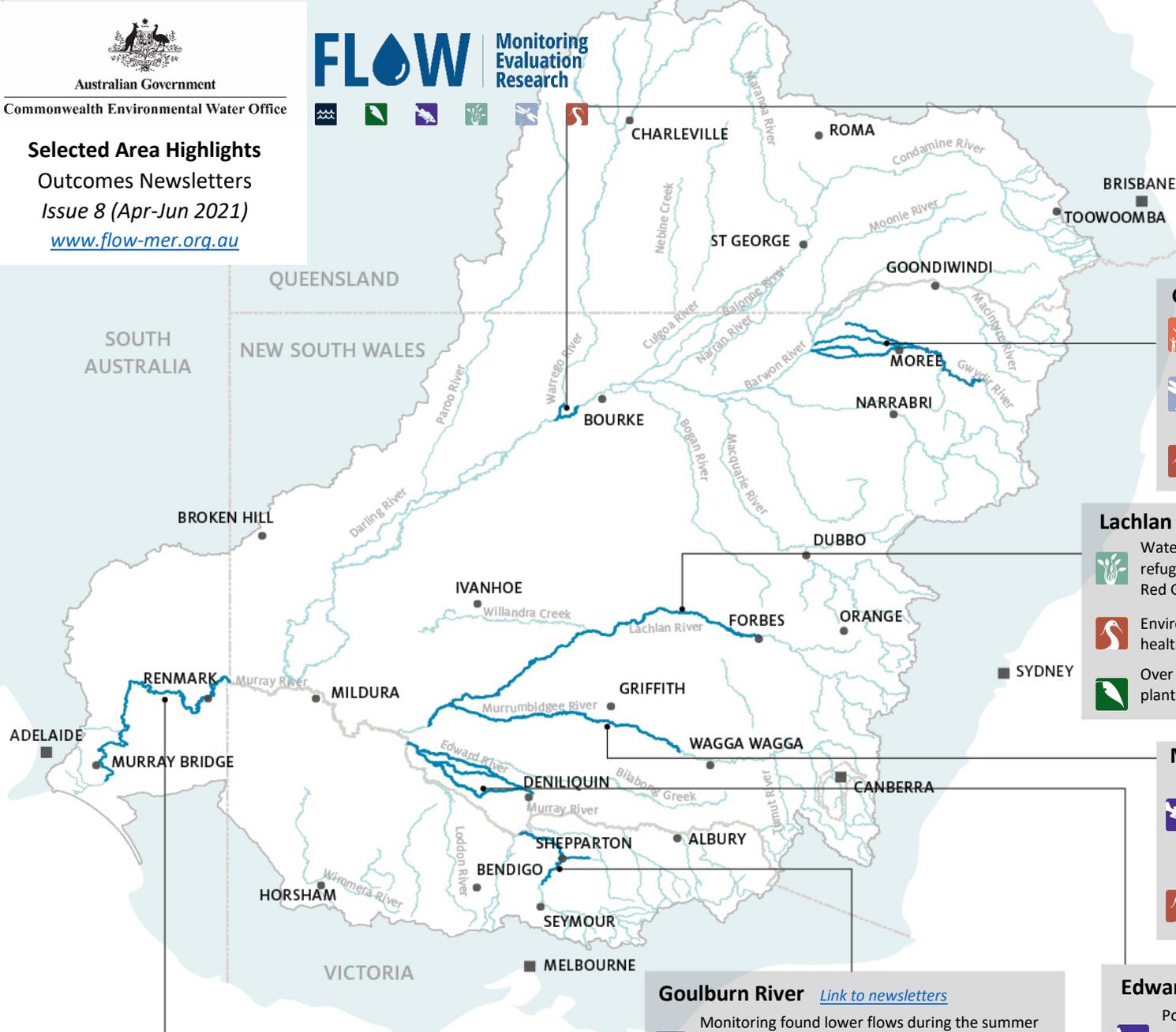


Selected Area Highlights

Outcomes Newsletters

Issue 8 (Apr-Jun 2021)

www.flow-mer.org.au



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



The first Aboriginal Cultural Advisor to advise on engagement approaches has been appointed for the Warrego-Darling Selected Area.



Monitoring of eggbanks and nutrients in sediments has found 5,793 invertebrate eggs. The most common were water fleas and the most widespread were roundworms.

Gwydir River System [Link to newsletters](#)



The first Aboriginal Cultural Advisor to advise on engagement approaches has been appointed for the Gwydir Selected Area.



Monitoring has found a whopping 15,443 invertebrate eggs. The most common were seed shrimp, tiny microcrustaceans that are a key link in the wetland food chain.



Tracking of Straw-Necked Ibises shows the mammoth journey some made from Murrumbidgee to spend time in Gwydir during 2021 floods.

Lachlan River System [Link to newsletters](#)



Water for the environment was delivered at Booligal to provide greater access to refuge habitat for native fish and the southern bell frog and helped fill several River Red Gum-lignum wetlands that have previously supported colonial bird breeding.



Environmental water was also delivered to Noonamah Wetland to maintain the health of black box, groundcover vegetation and provide habitat for native animals.



Over the past 6 years of monitoring, the Lachlan has displayed a huge diversity of plants, with 359 species recorded.

Murrumbidgee River System [Link to newsletters](#)



Golden perch supported by environmental water in Tala Creek in 2018-19 and 2020-21 are moving into the greater Murrumbidgee system, supporting the population across the catchment. Analysis shows these fish grew faster in the years the creek received environmental water.



Almost all the 18,000 pairs of ibis have departed following the breeding event earlier in the year that was supported by environmental water, boosting overall Basin populations.

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



Populations of native fish such as the small-bodied flathead gudgeon, Murray cod, silver perch and golden perch are showing signs of recovery since the 2016/17 flood/hypoxia event that caused substantial fish kills.



Tracking of short-necked turtles has revealed that they tend to spend dry periods in the river rather than wetlands, even if the wetland stays wet. Seems like a good strategy as most turtles have been making it through the season.



To help water managers and users plan their activities and communication, a recent survey asked what the people of the area think and feel about water for the environment. Look out for key results in a future outcomes newsletter.

Lower Murray River [Link to newsletters](#)



A new video has been released showing three sampling techniques - electrofishing, larval fish tows and vegetation transects - used in the Lower Murray and wider Basin. [Link to video](#)



An "Indigenous Ecology in Action" workshop was held with Calperum Station ecologists and aboriginal rangers. High School students with indigenous background learnt a lot about the cultural value of the country, western science and traditional knowledge in the Lower Murray.

Goulburn River [Link to newsletters](#)



Monitoring found lower flows during the summer months increase the total amount of algae and plant food for water bugs which become food for fish.



Young people from the Burnanga Indigenous Fishing Club attended a workshop on monitoring macroinvertebrates.



Lower flows during summer and targeted environmental watering have promoted the growth of bank vegetation.