



Australian Government

Commonwealth Environmental Water Office

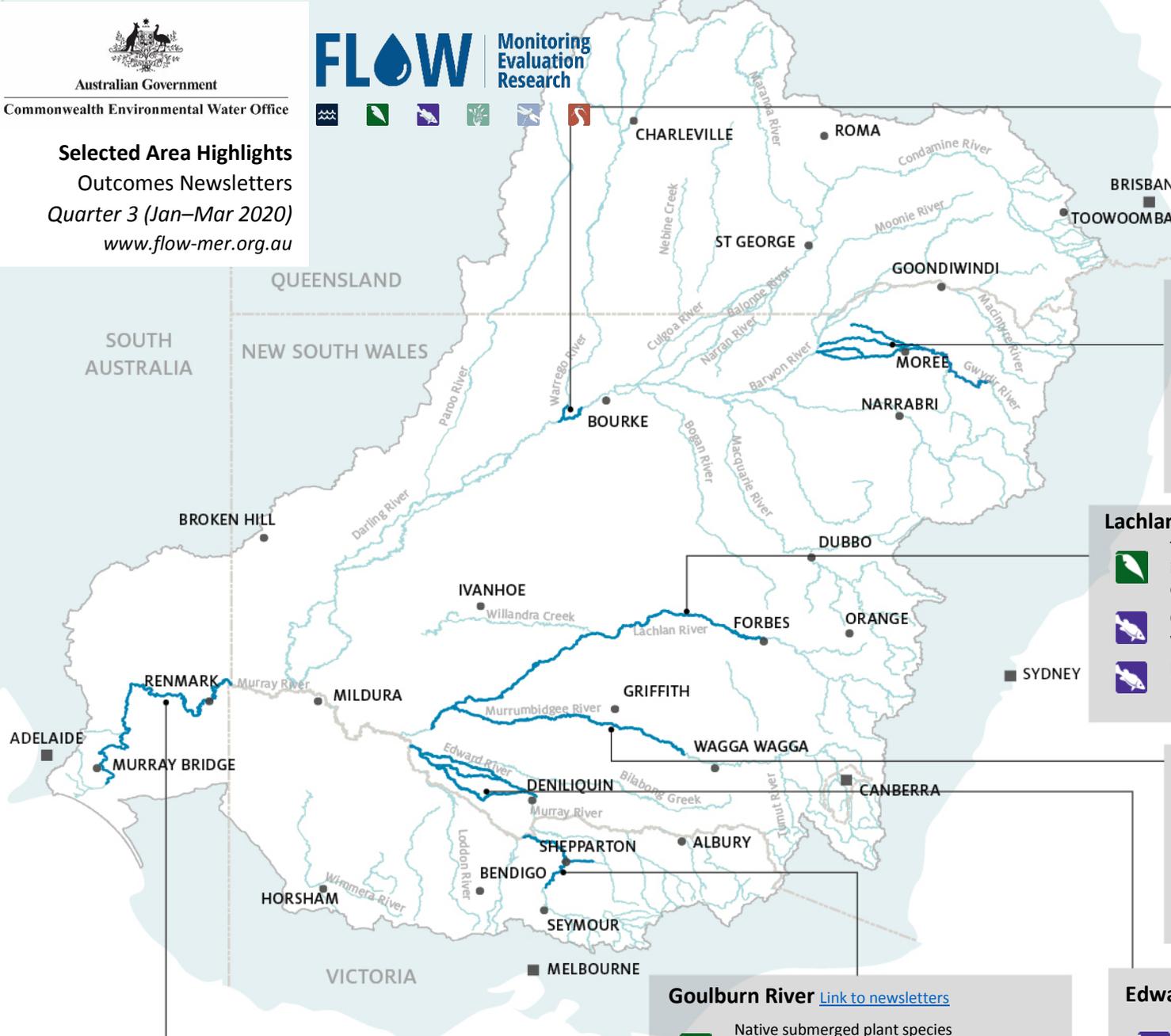


Monitoring Evaluation Research



Selected Area Highlights

Outcomes Newsletters
Quarter 3 (Jan–Mar 2020)
www.flow-mer.org.au



Junction of Warrego and Darling rivers

[Link to newsletters](#)

- Water was flowing over Brewarrina weir in March.
- Warrego is flowing well, linking into the Darling, on its way to the Murray, the western floodplain is also getting a good drink

Gwydir River System

[Link to newsletters](#)

- With the water came the birds. Autumn surveys recorded 90 species, with 45 water bird species, including the migratory Latham’s Snipe which is one of the Flow-MER Basin-scale tagged birds. It was spotted in the Gwydir in February and on the Balonne in March.

Lachlan River System

[Link to newsletters](#)

- The Great Cumbung has the largest stand of Common reed in NSW and provides important habitat for a range of bird species. Water for the environment was delivered to support the growth and reproduction of Common reed.
- Olive perchlet, a threatened native fish, appears to have spawned in Brewster weir pool in spring and summer 2019-2020.
- Fish surveys between Wallanthery and Hillston captured a number of large Murray cod and reasonable numbers of young Murray cod (new recruits)

Murrumbidgee River System

[Link to newsletters](#)

- Mercedes Lagoon in Yanga National Park received water for the environment in Dec 2019 creating lush vegetation and supporting carp gudgeon, frogs and tadpoles, eastern long-necked turtles and numerous waterbirds.
- Threatened Southern bell frog was heard for the first time since 2010 at Sunshower Lagoon after water for the environment was delivered following new pump installation.

Edward/Kolety–Wakool river systems

[Link to newsletters](#)

- In February 2020 young Murray cod were detected in the highest numbers since monitoring began in 2015, showing positive signs of recovery following the 2016-17 hypoxic black water event.
- Following very hot weather and low flows, monitoring showed that water temperatures were rising and dissolved oxygen levels were decreasing. Water for the environment was delivered in Jan-Feb to Yallakool Creek and the Wakool River to improve water quality and conditions for fish.

Lower Murray River

[Link to newsletters](#)

- Numbers of juvenile Murray cod are among the greatest since monitoring began in 2015.
- Water for the environment played a key role in reducing salt import into Coorong - without water for the environment an additional 20 million tonnes of salt would have entered the Coorong between July 2014 and June 2019.

Goulburn River

[Link to newsletters](#)

- Native submerged plant species *Potamogeton crispus* found for the first time since monitoring began in 2012.
- Spawning of the nationally threatened Trout cod has been detected for the last three years.
- Drone surveys are helping to identify flows and processes required to allow banks to stabilise and rebuild.