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**A Decade of Water for the Environment**

**in the Murray-Darling Basin**

**Water delivered 8000 gigalitres (16 Sydney Harbours)**

**Watered over 120 sites along approximately 20,000 kms of rivers**

Helped safeguard the health of the Basin’s **internationally recognized Ramsar wetlands**

**Over 200 native species** have benefited from **water for the environment**

Supported the return of some of Australia’s **endangered species** to the Basin

Supported many of the largest recorded **breeding cycles of native fish and waterbirds** in the last 20 years

Improved **water quality** by freshening up thousands of kilometres of rivers and removing an average of **77,000 semi-trailer loads** of **salt** annually since 2011

Partnering with **First Nations people** to help deliver **environmental** and **cultural benefits**

**The Commonwealth Environmental Water Office**

As the pressure on water resources has increased, water from most of the rivers in the Basin is removed every year to support urban consumption, irrigation, industry and food production. This is great for our prosperity, but it also means waterways no longer function as they would naturally. They need to be managed with flows dedicated to the environment to help rivers continue to flow and be healthy.

We work with States and local waterway managers to ensure this water achieves the best environmental outcomes, while benefiting the diverse Basin communities from recreational fishers to First Nations people.

The Commonwealth Environmental Water Office carefully manages water each year to suit prevailing conditions which include both wet and dry times. Just like other water users, we have to deal with the challenges of dry conditions when less water is available to us, which means we have to reduce our footprint accordingly.

| **Water for the environment—recent highlights** |
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| Helped provide breeding habitat for thousands of waterbirds, with **6,000 nests** recorded at the first ever observed **pelican breeding** at Nimmie-Caira |
| Supported the **largest Murray cod spawning event** in the last 20 years |
| Partnered with **Banrock Station, Nature Foundation SA** and **Renmark Irrigation Trust** to achieve mutual outcomes |
| Improved the health of **black box trees** at Hattah Lakes using efficient watering infrastructure |
| Supported the **recovery of important native plants** in the Mid-Murrumbidgee Wetlands  |
| **Provided water to the Macquarie Marshes, Gwydir watercourse and Lowbidgee** supporting over 50 native waterbirds species, including the endangered **Australian painted snipe** and **Australasian bittern** |
| Helped maintain connection between **rivers of the southern Basin and the sea** |
| Supported the **recovery of riverbank vegetation** along the Goulburn River |
| Managed the **largest event protected for the environment** through over 2000 kms of the northern basin river system, working with all levels of government and the community |
| **Engaging with First Nation groups** to deliver water for the environment at Toogimbie |
| Supported recruitment and resilience of threatened fish species in the Border Rivers and the migration of **Murray cod** and **freshwater catfish** in the Gwydir and Mehi Rivers |