



Australian Government

Commonwealth Environmental Water Office

A Decade of Water for the Environment in the Murray-Darling Basin



water
delivered

8000
gigalitres

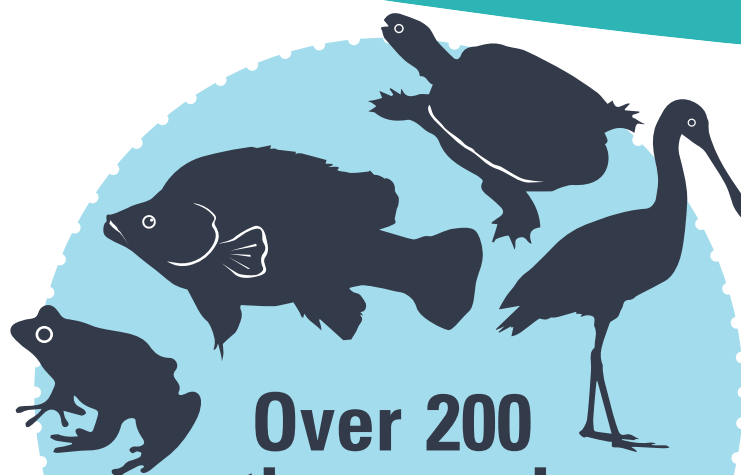
16 Sydney
Harbours



Working with **states,**
water managers,
industry, and
community groups

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

Helped safeguard
the health of the Basin's
**internationally
recognised
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**

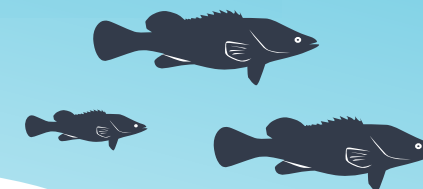


by freshening up thousands
of kilometres of rivers and
removing an average of

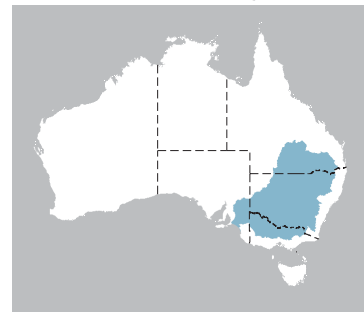
77,000
semi-trailer loads
of
salt
annually
since 2011



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



The Murray-Darling Basin

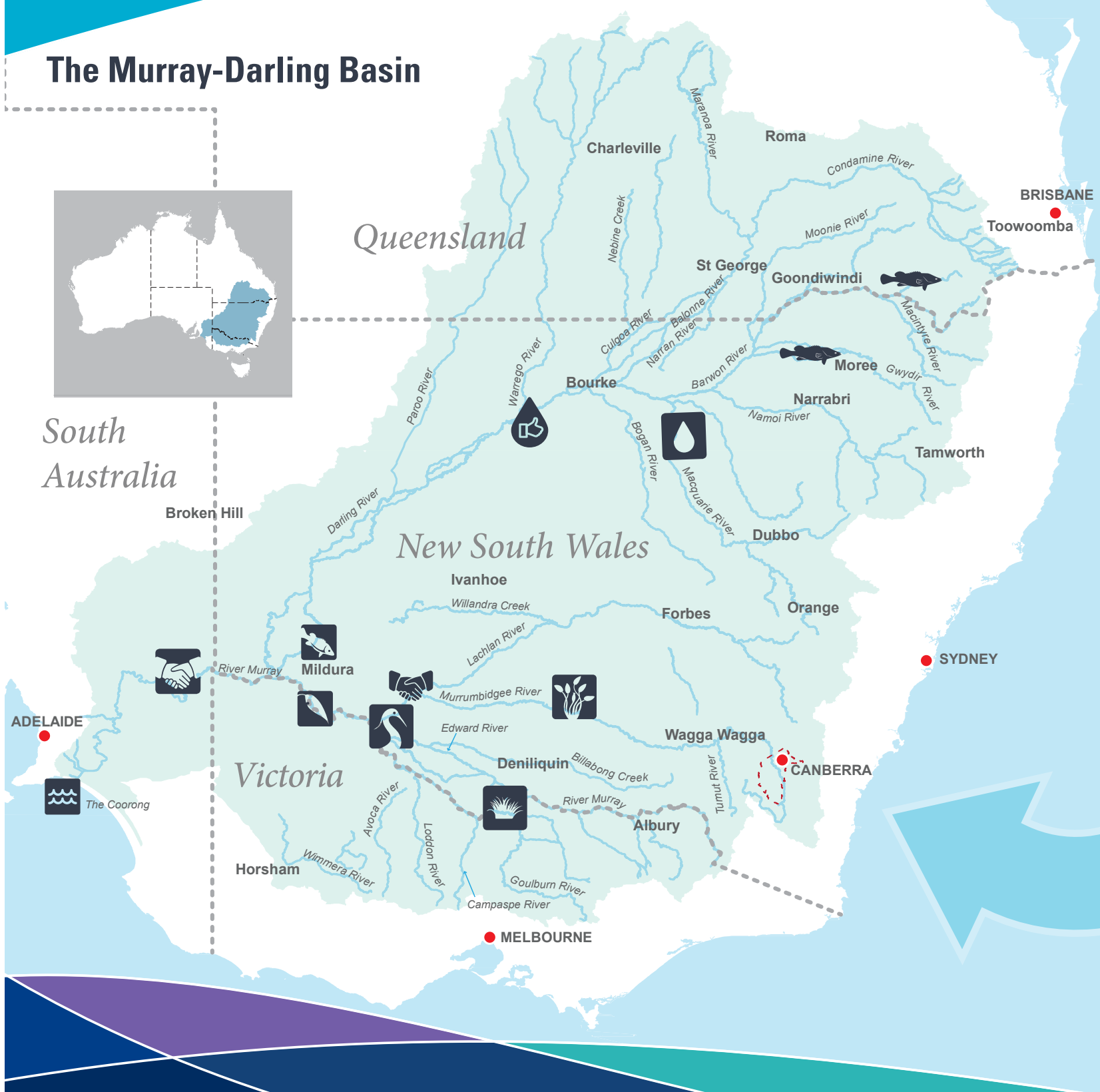


South
Australia

Queensland

New South Wales

Victoria



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

-  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

The Commonwealth Environmental Water Office acknowledges the traditional owners of country throughout Australia and their continuing connection to land, sea and community. We pay our respects to them and their cultures and to their elders both past and present.

