



Demonstration Reach projects



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Fish passage works

A joint project between the Murray Darling Basin Commission (MDBC) and New South Wales Department of Primary Industries (NSW DPI) has gathered information on the major barriers to fish passage in the Upper Darling Catchment, and produced a priority listing of all major barrier recommendation for remediation.

The major barriers to fish passage identified along the Border Rivers Demonstration Reach were Boggabilla Weir, Goondiwindi Weir and Boomi Weir, all situated along the Macintyre River. Both the Goondiwindi and Boggabilla Weirs have fish ladders currently installed, however it has been identified that these fish ladders often are not effective for all sizes of fish over all flow regimes. This project aims to investigate the effectiveness of these fish ladders, and if needed, be involved in the adaptation and construction of fish ladders to lead to fish passage throughout the Demonstration Reach.

Re-snagging the reach

Snags have been identified to provide extremely important habitat for aquatic life, particularly for native fish. Re-snagging involves placing snags back into the river to provide habitat and breeding areas for native fish. This project will involve identifying areas along the reach in which snags are lacking and placing engineering log structures into the rivers where needed.

Riparian Management

Riparian vegetation management has been identified as one of the most important aspects to keeping our rivers healthy, to help promote healthy populations of native fish. Staff from the Queensland Murray- Darling Committee and Border Rivers Gwydir Catchment Management Authority will be working with landholders along the Demonstration Reach to help them conserve, protect and manage their riparian areas.

Demonstration Reach signage

Interpretative signage is to be placed in strategic location along the Macintyre River Demonstration Reach. These signs aim to educate the community on what a Demonstration Reach is, where the Macintyre River Demonstration Reach is located, and possible management interventions of this project, including re-snagging, riparian vegetation rehabilitation, and construction of fish passage.

Optimal fish stocking along the Dumaresq River

This project is being undertaken by Glen Lyon Dam fishing and re-stocking group, in conjunction with the Queensland Murray- Darling Committee and Queensland Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries. This project will assess the contribution of stocking and levels of natural recruitment of the Murray Cod population in the Dumaresq River. This information will be utilised to improve the stocking management plans presently in place for this species in the Dumaresq River, and be made available to all stocking groups throughout the basin.



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Integrated Pest Management for Carp in the Murray- Darling Basin

SMEC Australia Pty Ltd. is currently undertaking a collaborative project with CSIRO Land and Water, to measure the benefits of various practical methods of carp control on the health of river ecosystems. The project team specifically wish to identify the degree to which carp numbers can be reduced using simple methods, environmental responses to carp removal and the ability for local communities to use the same methods. The project will provide a valuable contribution to the broader goal of holistic river rehabilitation by providing local communities with information on the effectiveness of various simple carp removal methods.

Macintyre River Carp Management Plan:

This project is currently being undertaken by Dr. Mike Braysher from the University of Canberra. This project involves the development of a ready-to-implement, community-based carp management program.

Carp Buster events

The Queensland Murray- Darling Committee have joined forces with six fishing clubs over the Queensland Murray- Darling basin to hold a series of Carp Buster events. Carp are one of the world's most widely distributed freshwater fish, and have invaded a large section of southern Queensland's rivers, creeks and dams. These Carp Buster events not only provide an opportunity to raise community awareness about this pest, but to also highlight a host of other issues surrounding the degradation of our rivers and creek systems, and other reasons for native fish declines.

Ecological characterisation of fish fauna throughout the reach

Adam Butcher from the Queensland Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries has recently prepared a report detailing the fish species found throughout the Border Rivers catchment, and threats to each of these species.

Aerial video and habitat mapping

It was identified that there was insufficient knowledge of spatial distribution and current condition of different in-stream habitats through the Demonstration Reach area. This project involved obtaining aerial video mapping of rivers throughout the Demonstration Reach area, and converting this information into a useable format. This information can now be used to identify gaps in in-stream habitat such as large woody debris, locate possible barriers to fish passage, identify extent of riparian vegetation and the extent of stream bank and gully erosion along the Demonstration Reach.

Sedimentation processes

This project is being undertaken by the Border River Gwydir Catchment Management Authority. It will look at the different geomorphologic styles of rivers within the Demonstration Reach area.