



Integrated Pest Management for Carp in the Murray-Darling Basin

CARP IN THE MURRAY-DARLING BASIN

Carp were introduced to Australia 1859, and become widely established in the Murray-Darling Basin following floods in the early 1970's. Carp have been shown to cause increased turbidity, elevated nutrients, damage to aquatic plants, and may contribute to algal blooms and bank erosion. They also compete with native fish for food and habitat, and spread disease.

The environmental effects of carp have serious economic costs to tourism, fishing, agricultural and water industries. Carp also have social impacts on local communities by reducing environmental values, opportunities for fishing and general enjoyment of rivers and wetlands. Whilst research is progressing to develop large scale methods of carp control, there is a pressing need to firmly establish the benefits of existing methods that can be applied by local communities and landholders.

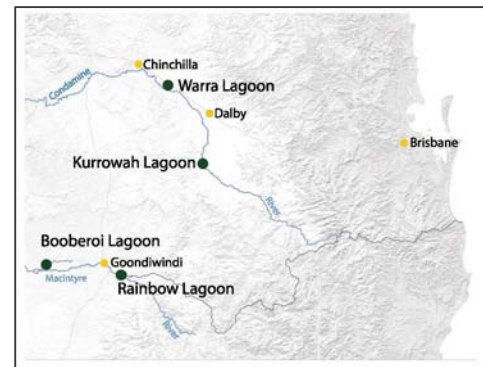
WHAT IS BEING DONE?

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 within the Murray-Darling Basin. Specifically the project team want to identify:

- The degree to which carp numbers can be reduced using simple methods
- Environmental responses to carp removal
- 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 through providing local communities with information on the effectiveness of various simple carp removal methods. An overview of the methods to be employed during the project is outlined in the Project Stages section overleaf.

Project sites are located within the Native Fish Strategy Demonstration Reaches, established by the Murray-Darling Basin Commission. The project will be conducted at Rainbow and Booberoi Lagoons in the Macintyre catchment and Warra and Kurrowah Lagoons in the Condamine catchment. The sites include wetlands on public reserves and privately owned land used for a range of agricultural practices.



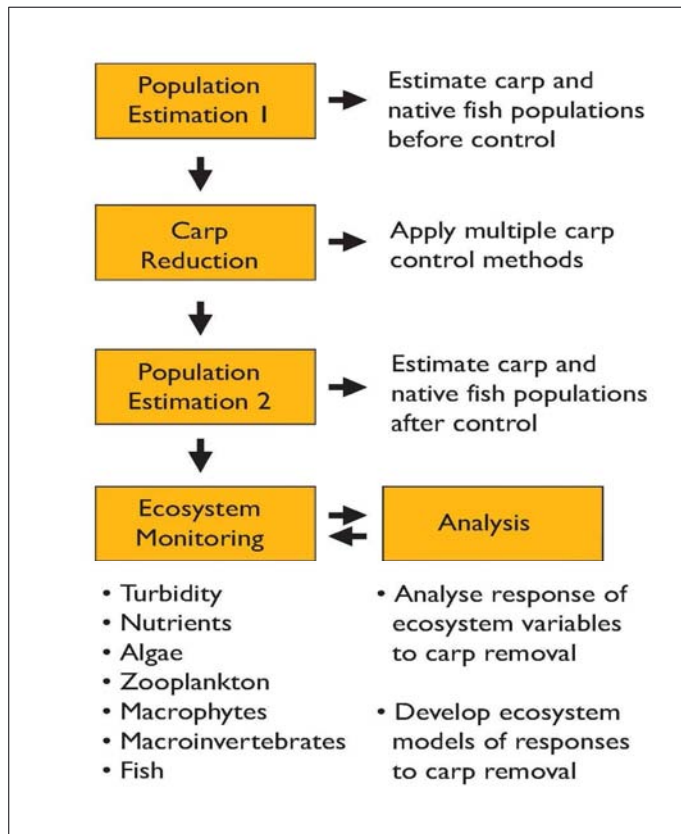
WHO IS INVOLVED?

The Murray-Darling Basin Commission is funding this project over two and a half years as part of the Native Fish Strategy strategic investment program. The project is a collaborative effort between SMEC and CSIRO Land and Water. The SMEC team will work closely with local natural resource management groups, the Condamine Alliance and Queensland Murray-Darling Committee.





PROJECT STAGES



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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FURTHER READING

Koehn. J, Brumley. A and Gehrke. P (2000). Managing the impacts of Carp. Bureau of Rural Sciences, Canberra.

Lintermans. M, (2007). Fishes of the Murray-Darling Basin. Murray-Darling Basin Commission, Canberra.

MDBC. (2004) Native Fish Strategy for the Murray-Darling Basin 2003-2013. Murray-Darling Basin Commission, Canberra.

