5.2.5 Lower Murray wetlands

Variation to the Seasonal Watering Plan 2019-20

This variation was made to the lower Murray wetlands section of the *Seasonal Watering Plan 2019-20* at the VEWH Commission meeting on 30 August 2019.

Please note the amended text in red below.

Table 5.2.9 Potential environmental watering actions and objectives for the lower Murray wetlands

Potential environmental watering action	Functional watering objective	Environmental objective
Wetland watering		
Brickworks Billabong (fill in spring, with top-ups as required to maintain water quality and water level targets)	• Fill in spring to 34.0 m AHD to inundate and grow ruppia to provide nursery habitat for Murray hardyhead and to provide high levels of aquatic productivity • Allow natural recession of a maximum 1 m AHD in late summer/autumn (to 33.0 m AHD), to provide shallow-water habitat and expose mudflats to support foraging and resting of small waders	• Birds/waterbirds • Fish
Bridge Creek (fill in winter/spring)	• Inundate existing river red gum, black box and lignum to maintain/improve their condition	• Vegetation
Bullock Swamp North (fill in winter/spring)	• Increase aquatic macrophyte diversity and area in the freshwater marsh habitats	• Vegetation
Burra Creek North (fill in winter/spring)	• Inundate existing river red gum, black box and lignum to maintain/improve their condition • Promote the growth of seasonal emergent and semi-emergent macrophytes • Provide seasonal connectivity along Burra Creek, wetlands and the floodplain in the target area to increase opportunities for native frogs and turtles and maintain riverine food chains	• Vegetation
Burra Creek South (fill in winter/spring)	• Inundate existing river red gum, black box and lignum to maintain/improve their condition • Promote the growth of seasonal emergent and semi-emergent macrophytes • Provide seasonal connectivity along Burra Creek, wetlands and the floodplain to increase the movement of turtles to support their recruitment and long-term population growth	• Turtle • Vegetation
Burra Creek South Proper (fill in winter/spring)	• Inundate existing fringing river red gum, black box and lignum to maintain/improve their condition • Promote the growth of seasonal emergent and semi-emergent macrophytes	• Vegetation
Carina Bend (fill in winter/spring)	• Inundate the existing mature river red gum trees along the wetland perimeter to maintain their health	• Birds/waterbirds • Fish

Potential environmental watering action	Functional watering objective	Environmental objective
	• Inundate the floodway pond herbland EVC[1] within the creek to provide seasonal aquatic habitat that supports a diverse population of native fish and frogs • Inundate the intermittent swampy woodland EVC[1] to provide nesting and feeding habitat for waterfowl in winter and spring	• Frogs • Vegetation
J1 Creek (fill in winter/spring)	• Inundate the existing river red gum communities to improve their health • Inundate the floodplain to increase the recruitment of floodplain plant communities including river red gum, lignum and black box	• Vegetation
Koorlong Lake (fill in spring, with top-ups as required to maintain water quality and water level targets)	• Fill wetland to 38.0 m AHD in spring to support the growth of ruppia, to provide nursery habitat for Murray hardyhead and provide high levels of aquatic productivity • Allow water levels to drop over summer to 36.7 m AHD to increase salinity levels, providing a competitive advantage to Murray hardyhead	• Fish • Vegetation
Lake Carpul (fill in winter/spring)	• Inundate trees (including river red gum) bordering creeks and lakes to improve their condition • Fill Lake Carpul to capacity to support water-dependent vegetation and increase understorey productivity	• Vegetation
Lake Hawthorn (fill in spring, with top-ups as required to maintain water quality and water level targets)	• Fill wetland to 33.3 m AHD to encourage the germination and growth of ruppia, to provide nursery habitat for Murray hardyhead and visitation by shorebirds • Allow natural recession of a maximum 0.3 m (to 33.0 m AHD) to expose mudflats for foraging shorebirds before providing a top-up volume to return the water level to 33.3 m AHD	• Birds/waterbirds • Fish • Vegetation
Lake Powell (fill in winter/spring)	• Inundate trees (including river red gum) bordering creeks and lakes to improve their condition • Fill Lake Powell to capacity to support water-dependent vegetation and increase understorey productivity	• Vegetation
Liparoo East Billabong (fill in winter/spring)	• Fill the billabong to encourage lignum growth and provide feeding habitat for large waders as well as temporary breeding habitat for waterbirds • Fill the billabong to support the growth of native vegetation and increase the understorey diversity and recruitment of river red gum saplings	• Birds/waterbirds • Vegetation
Liparoo West Billabong (fill in winter/spring)	• Fill the billabong to encourage lignum growth and provide feeding habitat for large waders as well as temporary breeding habitat for waterbirds • Fill the billabong to support the growth of native vegetation and maintain a community of drought-tolerant emergent aquatic macrophytes at the wetland edge	• Birds/waterbirds • Vegetation

Potential environmental watering action	Functional watering objective	Environmental objective

Potential environmental watering action	Functional watering objective	Environmental objective
Neds Corner Central (fill in spring)	• Fill the wetland to inundate the lignum swamp zone to stimulate the recruitment of native vegetation and improve species diversity • Fill the wetland to encourage lignum growth and increase the quantity and quality of nesting habitat for waterbirds	• Birds/waterbirds • Vegetation
Neds Corner East (fill in spring)	• Fill the wetland to inundate the floodway pond herbland zone, to stimulate the recruitment of native vegetation and improve species diversity • Improve vegetation recruitment and diversity to meet EVC[1] benchmarks • Maintain the health and structure of the shrubby riverine woodland EVC[1]	• Vegetation
Neds Corner Woolshed (fill in spring)	• Inundate the creek bed to enhance floodplain productivity and provide increased foraging areas to support the growling grass frog population • Fill the creek to increase the recruitment of river red gums and understory shrubs to improve breeding and nesting opportunities for native waterbirds	• Frogs • Vegetation • Waterbirds
Nyah Floodplain (fill in spring/summer)	• Water seasonal anabranches to restore the vegetation structure of wetland plant communities • Fill seasonal wetlands to re-establish resident populations of native frogs and support terrestrial animals • Inundate the red gum swamp forest and woodland to increase the recruitment of river red gum saplings and provide reliable breeding habitat for waterbirds including colonial nesting species • Deliver water onto the floodplain to improve the vegetation condition and support resident populations of vertebrate animals including carpet python, sugar glider and grey-crowned babbler	• Birds/waterbirds • Frogs • Terrestrial animals • Vegetation
Vinifera Floodplain (fill in spring/summer)	• Water seasonal anabranches to restore the vegetation structure of wetland plant communities • Fill seasonal wetlands to re-establish resident populations of native frogs and support terrestrial animals • Inundate the red gum swamp forest and woodland to increase the recruitment of river red gum saplings and provide reliable breeding habitat for waterbirds including colonial nesting species • Deliver water onto the floodplain to improve the vegetation condition and support the resident populations of vertebrate animals including carpet python, sugar glider and grey-crowned babbler	• Birds/waterbirds • Frogs • Terrestrial animals • Vegetation
Yungera wetland (fill in winter/spring)	• Inundate the existing river red gum communities to improve their health • Inundate the floodplain to increase the recruitment of floodplain plant communities including river red gum, lignum and black box	• Vegetation

Please note: Margooya Lagoon has been removed. This site is not managed using held water for the environment.