



2013-14 Murray-Darling Basin Environmental Watering Priorities

During 2013-14 there will be ten Basin-scale priorities for environmental watering within the Murray-Darling Basin. These priorities build on local, regional and state priorities, and are focussed around two themes; **connecting rivers and floodplains** (1 to 6) and **supporting in-stream functions** (7 to 10).

A snapshot of the priorities is provided below. More detail on each of the priorities is provided in supporting information on our website: www.mdba.gov.au

Guiding philosophy

To maximise environmental outcomes by delivering water in response to natural cues, providing events that are similar to those that would have occurred in an unmodified river system.



1

Northern Basin wetlands

Improve the health and resilience of waterbird populations by supporting breeding events and improving habitat.



2

Gwydir Wetlands

Improve wetland health and connections between habitats by providing water in ways that meet ecological requirements.



3

Macquarie Marshes

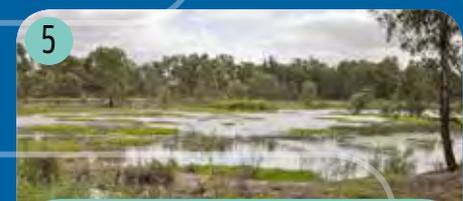
Improve wetland health to build and maintain resilience, especially to future dry periods.



4

Lower Lachlan wetlands

Improve wetland health to build and maintain resilience, especially to future dry periods.



5

Mid-Murrumbidgee wetlands

Improve wetland health through providing a pulse of water (known as a 'fresh') in winter or spring.



6

Lower Murray River system

Improve vegetation condition in wetlands and floodplains and vary river flows to encourage native fish movement and breeding.



7

Barwon-Darling River system

Improve habitat and provide opportunities for native fish to migrate and breed by varying river flows and improving connections to wetlands.



8

Lower Goulburn River

Improve habitat and provide opportunities for native fish to migrate and breed by varying river flows and providing a spring/summer 'fresh'.



9

Mid-Murray River

Improve habitat and provide opportunities for native fish to migrate and breed in rivers, anabranches and low-lying wetlands.



10

Coorong, Lower Lakes & Murray Mouth

Encourage the recovery of aquatic plants by providing flows into the Coorong, maintain the connection between the lower lakes, and improve water quality in Lake Albert.

