



Flooding for Life

GUNBOWER FOREST

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Environmental watering update August 2014

- Watering has been running for 65 days
- Over 37 GL of water has been delivered to the forest through the Hipwell Road Channel
- Approx. 3783 Ha of the forest has been inundated, which includes:
 - 64% of the forest wetlands
 - 20% of the red gum forest
- Water begun exiting the forest and returning to the Murray River last week.

Flow Summary

- Flow over Gunbower Weir is currently being increased to test the capacity of Gunbower Creek.
- Maximum flow into Hipwell Road Channel will be maintained for the next few weeks.
- Flow over Hipwell Road Weir is providing important benefits for native fish.
- Fishway on Yarran Creek regulator has been opened to allow native fish in the Gunbower Creek to move into the forest. Nutrient and carbon rich water entering Gunbower Creek will also help to boost the productivity of the creek, benefiting native fish, crustaceans and aquatic plants.

Location	Approx. Flow (ML/d)
Gunbower Weir	1200
Hipwell Road Channel	750
Hipwell Road Weir	380
Cohuna Weir	380
Yarran Regulator	25
Koondrook Weir	250
Chinamans Bend (forest outfall)	300

- **Natural high Murray River flows**
 - Murray River has been rising over past few weeks, it peaked at 17,000ML/d and is now receding.
 - Water level in the forest is higher than that in the Murray River therefore gates on Murray River regulators (Shillinglaws and Barham Cut) will remain closed for now.
- **Blackwater**
 - Some pockets of water that is low in dissolved oxygen (DO) (<3 mg/L) have been recorded in the forest.
 - These are in areas where there is little water exchange and are expected.
 - Generally DO levels across the forest are ranging between 8 – 4 mg/L
 - Water exiting the forest is mixing with water in Gunbower Creek and the Murray River. Good dilution is currently occurring , with DO levels at Condidorios bridge around 6mg/L.



Photo1: North Central CMA staff member Amy Russell, taking a dissolved oxygen reading at Dry Swamp Track bridge, where water exits the forest.



Photo2: Water filling Reedy Lagoon

CONTACT

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