

# Koondrook–Perricoota Forest



Koondrook-Perricoota Forest is part of the NSW Central Murray Forests Ramsar site. The forest is a place of ecological diversity, rich with Aboriginal Cultural Heritage and a place for community and industry to thrive and work together.

The Barapa Barapa and Yorta Yorta are the Traditional Owners of the land on which Koondrook-Perricoota Forest is located. The forest is lush with cultural artifacts and sites, including many areas of significance.

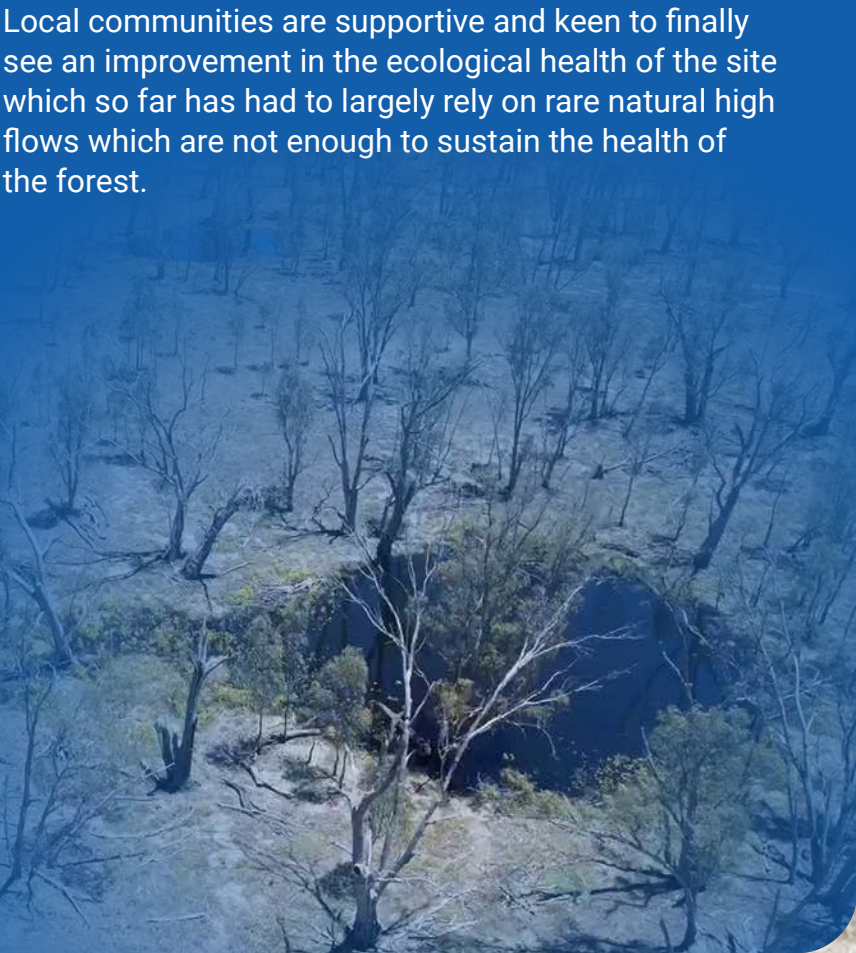
## Working with communities towards a healthier forest

The Koondrook–Perricoota regulators were built in 2013 and have the capacity to deliver 6,000 ML a day.

However, consistent use of the regulators is not yet possible due to issues around inundation of private land and infrastructure nearby. This has limited the amount of water that can be delivered to the forest and therefore the recovery of the ecological values of the site.

Small scale watering of the forest happened in 2014 and 2019 to reach around 3,500 hectares or 12% of the forest and relied on the trust and goodwill from forest neighbours and agencies to happen.

It has taken time and effort to design a solution for the original infrastructure to work. Funding has now been secured to resolve the issues and allow for greater volumes of water to be delivered to the forest.



## Pollack Swamp




Pollack Swamp or Pultj in Barapa language, is a 700ha State Forest Flora Reserve situated 2km downstream of Koondrook State Forest. The Pollack is a significant wetland that has regularly received water for the environment via private infrastructure.

Regular watering has seen a great improvement in wetland vegetation and native fish with conditions suitable for waterbird breeding.

In 2016, large-scale natural flooding reactivated the Pollack as a significant waterbird nesting site for the first time in 24 years.

Thirty-five waterbird species were recorded, sixteen species successfully bred, and at least 4,000 waterbird chicks fledged. From mapping the nests, it was clear that waterbirds preferred to nest in redgums with healthy canopy condition, helped by the regular small-scale watering prior to 2016.

The success and recovery of the Pollack over time highlights what can be achieved when agencies work well with communities and First Nations.

	07/08	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22	22/23
 Fish	-	-	-	D	D	D	D	D	C	D	D	D	D	-	D	D
 Birds	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	B	D	D	D	D	D	D
 Vegetation	D	D	D	D	C	D	D	D	D	B	D	D	D	D	D	D
Grades	A Excellent Most (75-100%) of ecological objectives have been met			B Good More than half (50-74%) of ecological objectives have been met			C Fair Fewer than half (25-49%) of ecological objectives have been met			D Needs attention Few (0-24%) of ecological objectives have been met			- Data not available			



2011



Construction of structures to deliver water for the environment in the forest starts.

2013



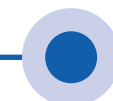
Construction finishes.

2014



First water for the environment is delivered via new structures, watering 4,500 ha of forest.

2017



Approval for a works project to increase flow and help mitigate third party impacts.

2022



Largest natural over bank event recorded since 1956, which watered the entire forest.



20 years of The Living Murray  
*Much achieved, much to do*

Koondrook-Perricoota with Gunbower Forest is the second largest River Red Gum Forest in Australia and covers approximately 33,750ha.



The local Edward-Wakool River Angling Association is working with Traditional Owners and Forestry Corporation to restore habitat for the threatened eel-tailed catfish. In 2023, as part of a 5-year project, catfish were stocked into Pollack and Swan Lagoon wetlands for first time.



Loddon River

Kerang

Barham

Cohuna

River Murray

Pyramid Creek

Gunbower Creek

Koondrook-Perricoota-Forest

NEW SOUTH WALES

VICTORIA

In Pollack Swamp, 46 different water bird species were recorded during the 2022-23 flooding event which represents the highest number of species recorded since monitoring commenced.



In 2023, the frog monitoring program detected the presence of the endangered Southern bell frog. This is the first detection of the species within the forest since 1993, with the only other previous record in 1961.

