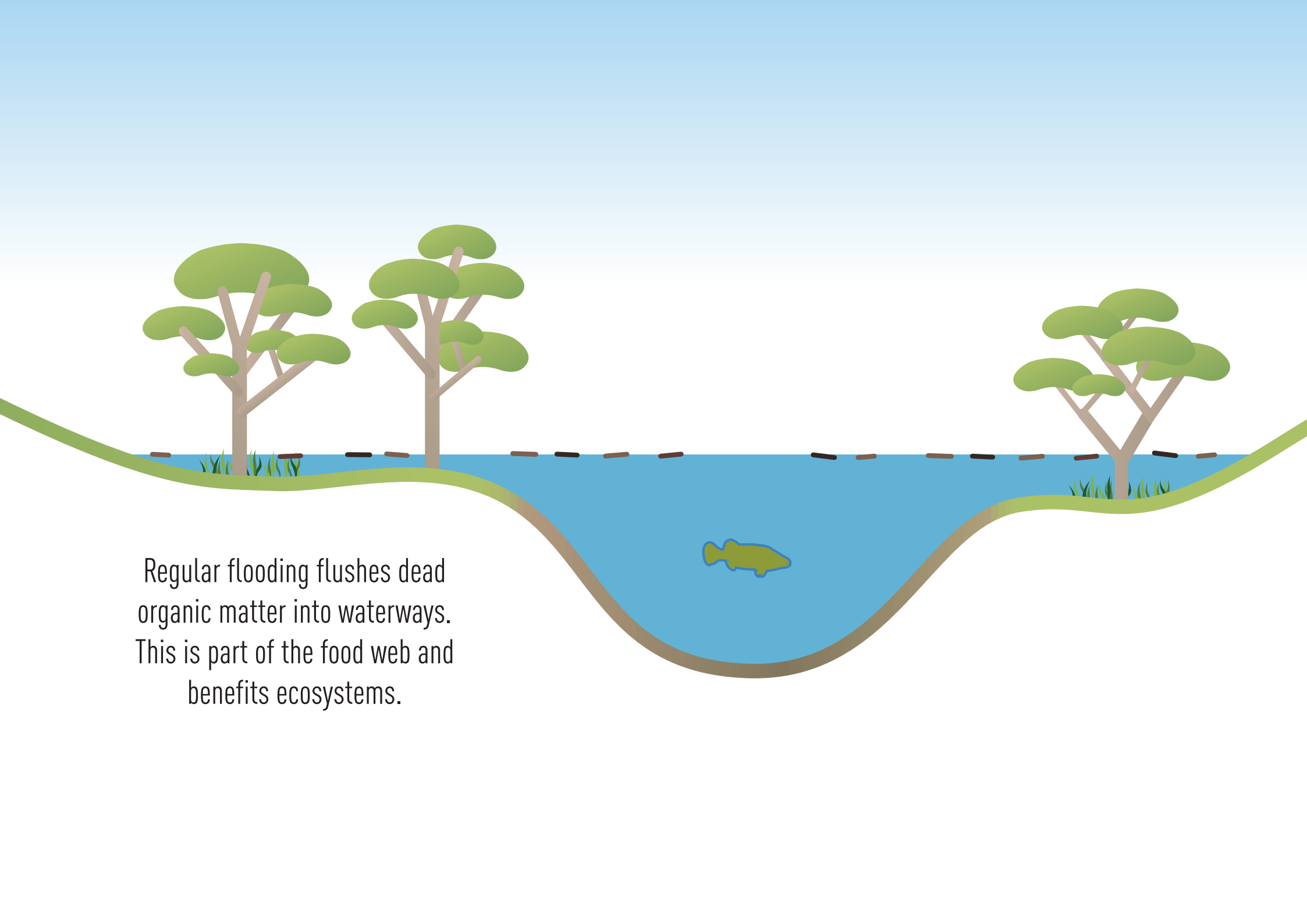
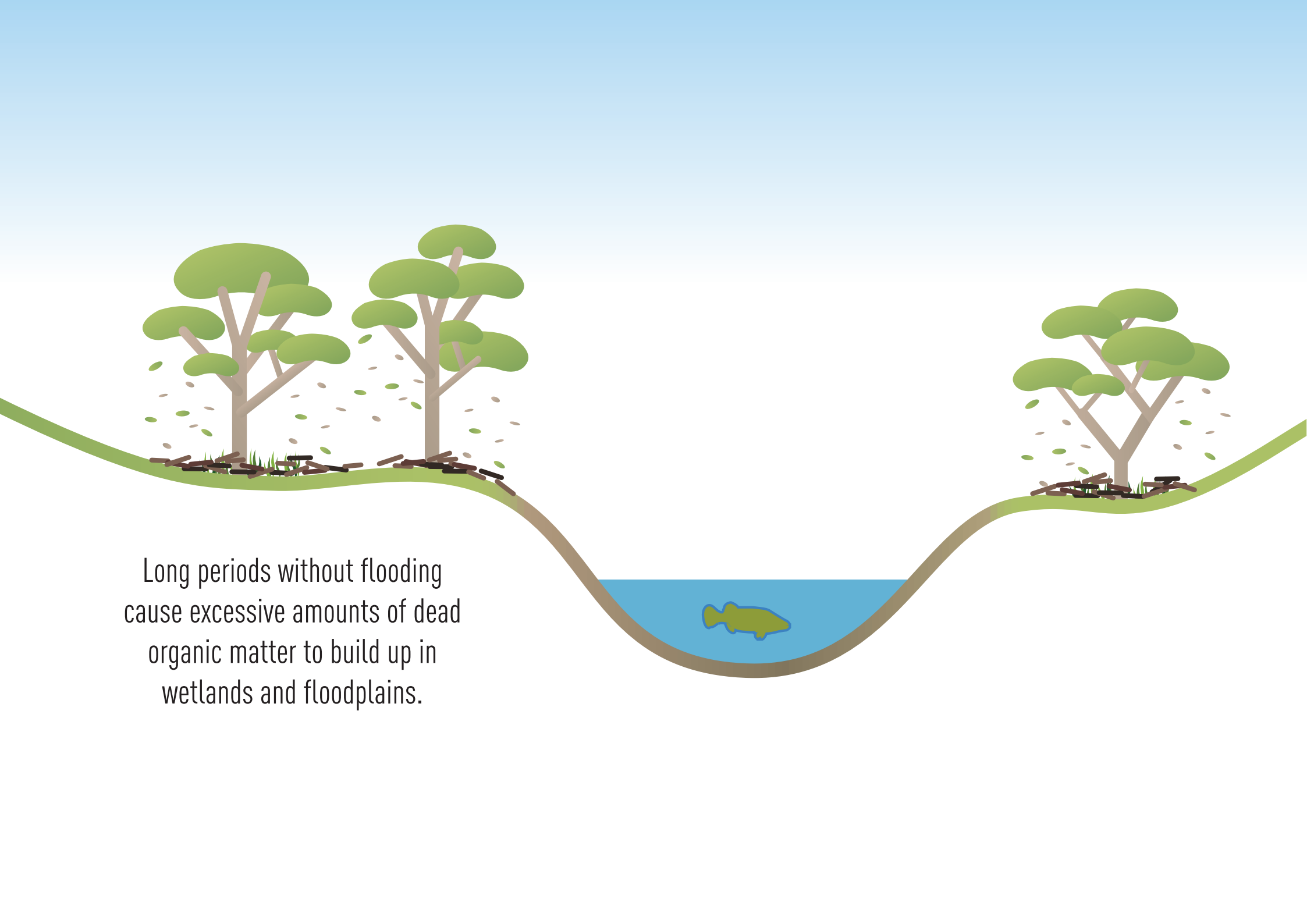


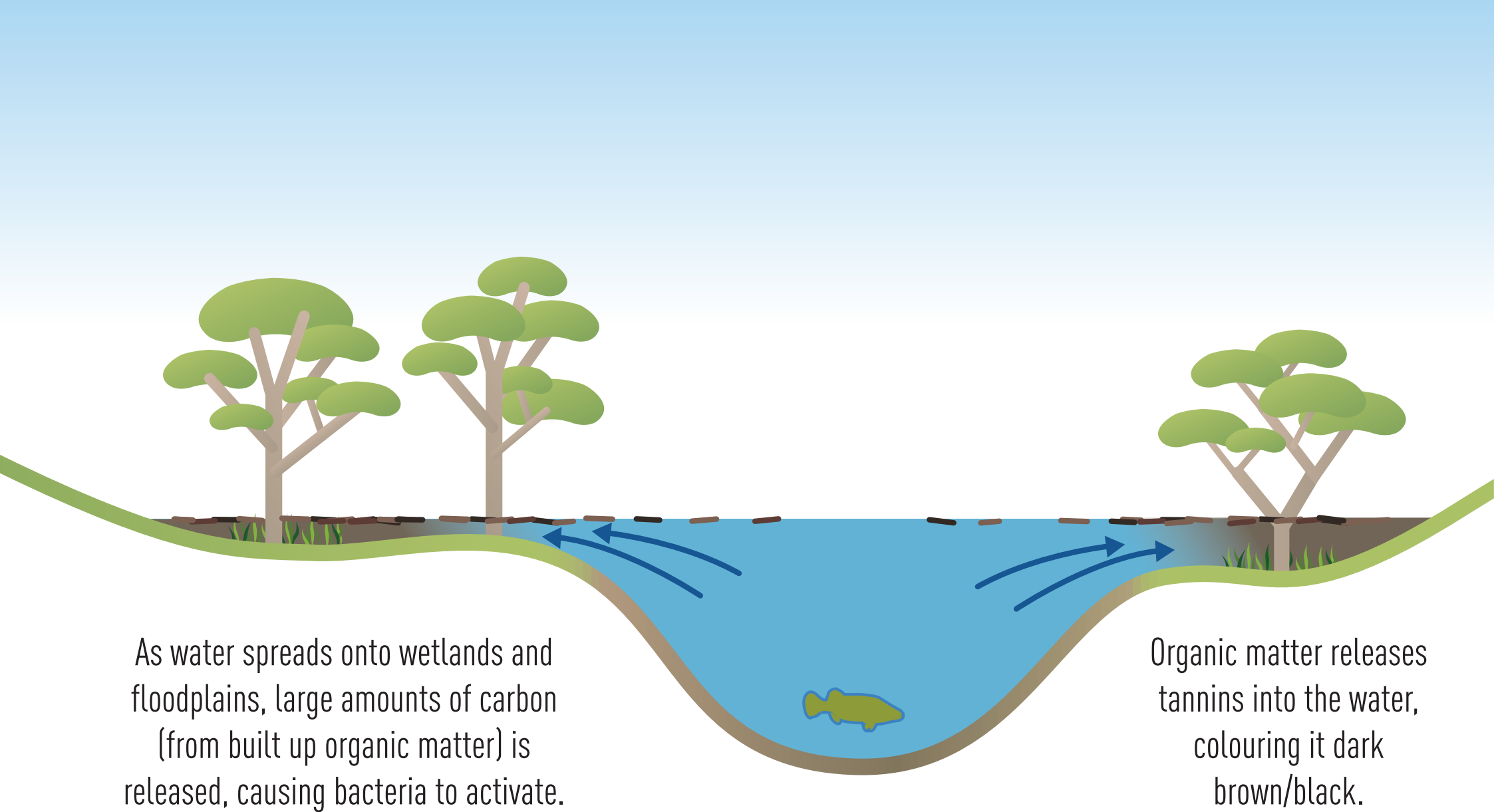
Leaves, bark, grass and other
organic matter builds up in
dry wetlands and floodplains



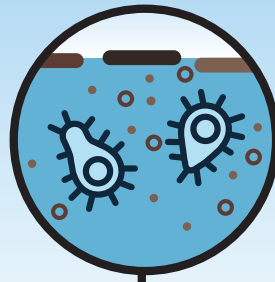
Regular flooding flushes dead organic matter into waterways. This is part of the food web and benefits ecosystems.



Long periods without flooding
cause excessive amounts of dead
organic matter to build up in
wetlands and floodplains.

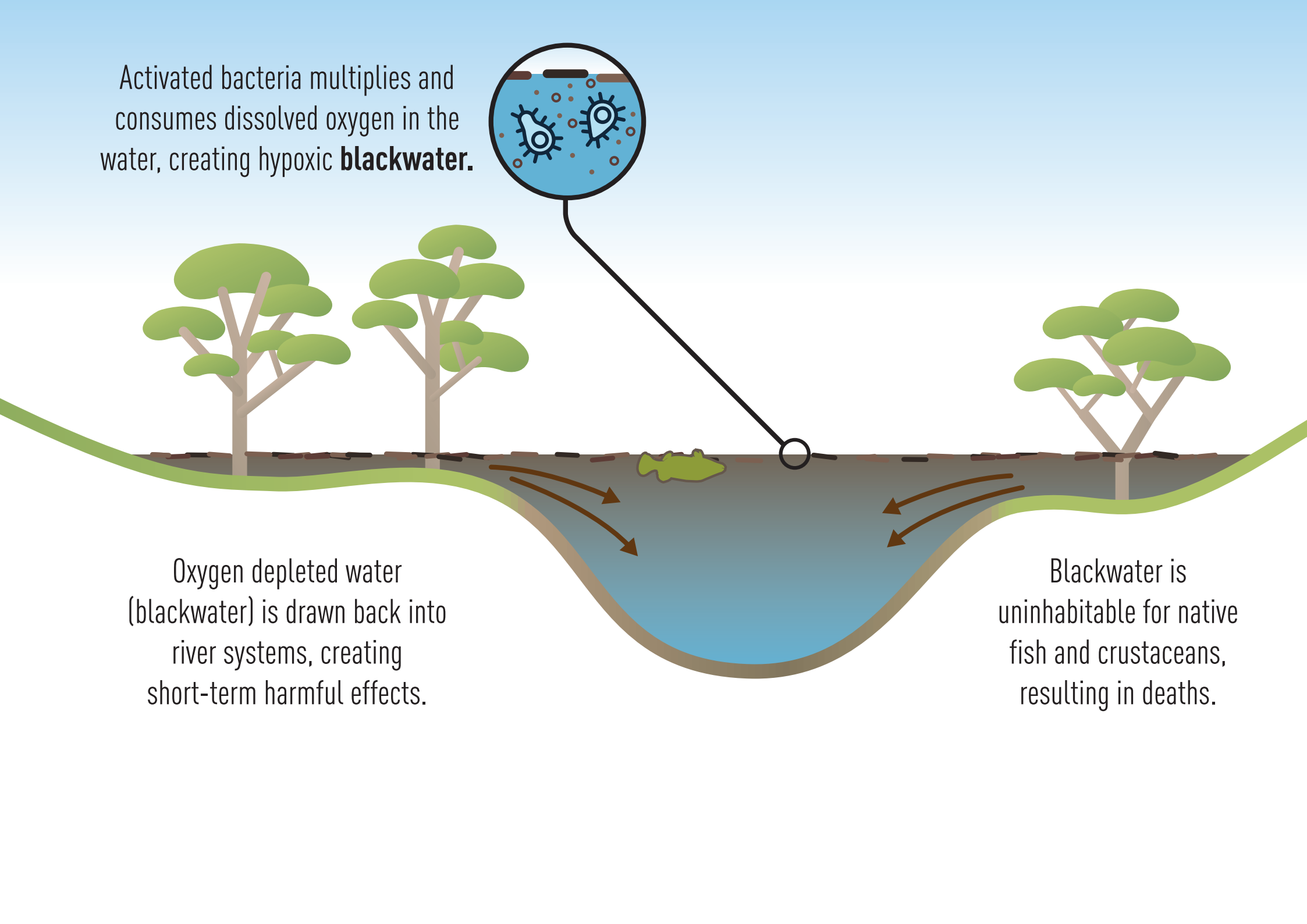


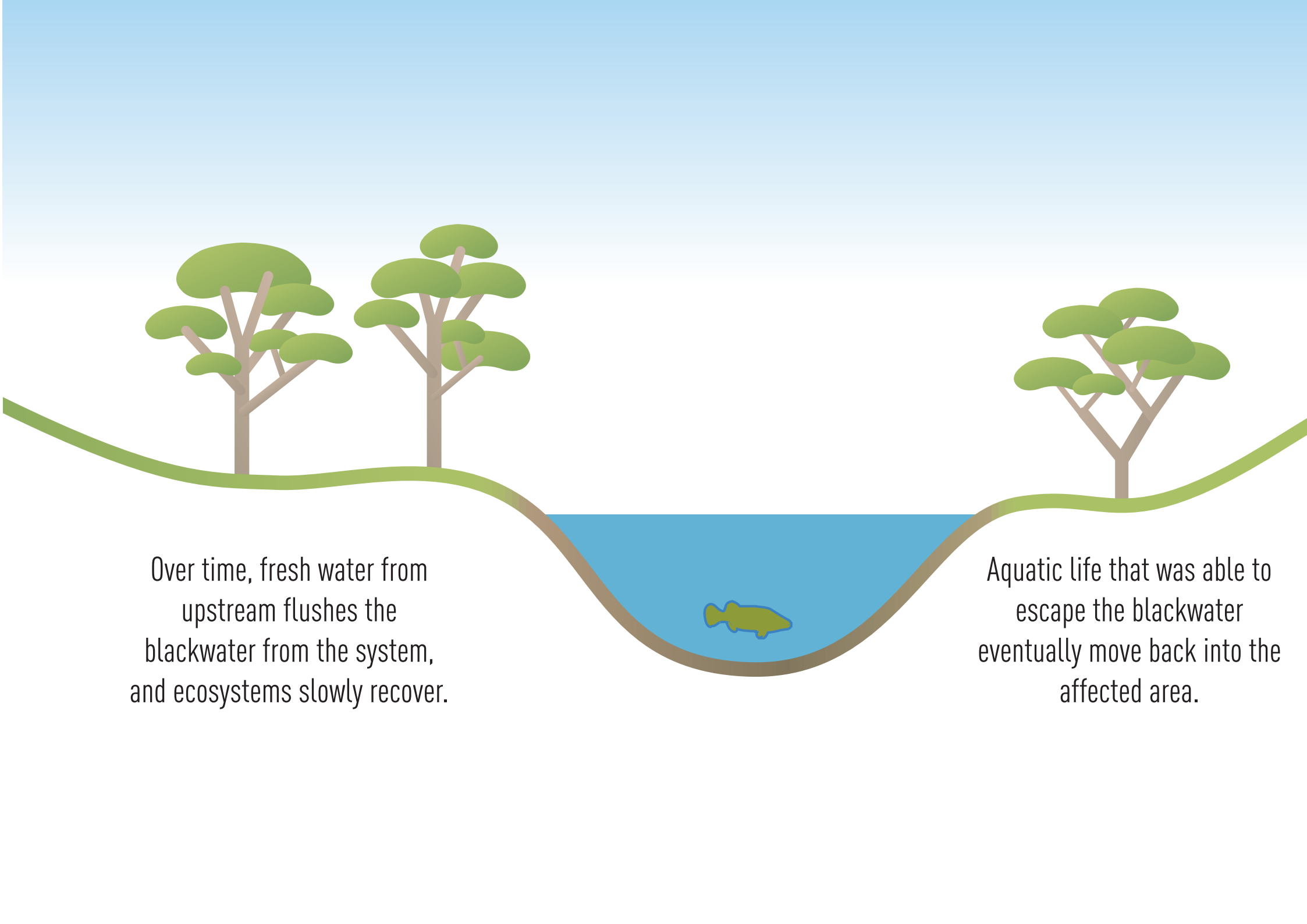
Activated bacteria multiplies and consumes dissolved oxygen in the water, creating hypoxic **blackwater**.



Oxygen depleted water (blackwater) is drawn back into river systems, creating short-term harmful effects.

Blackwater is uninhabitable for native fish and crustaceans, resulting in deaths.





Over time, fresh water from upstream flushes the blackwater from the system, and ecosystems slowly recover.

Aquatic life that was able to escape the blackwater eventually move back into the affected area.