



Voices from the Murray–Darling Basin

MD-WERP is supporting innovative oral history research in the Basin. The Navigating Change projects are collecting memories of change in the Murray–Darling Basin. Monitoring social conditions helps us understand communities. It can show how they are faring and where social issues and strengths exist. We need to understand how people and communities have adapted to, and can adapt to, changes related to water. These projects are using local knowledge to complement historical data.

[Read more](#)



Message from the Governing Panel



Welcome to the December 2024 newsletter. This newsletter contains information about recent tactical project outputs and highlights new research reports and project findings.

On behalf of the Governing Panel, I want to express my gratitude to all of the researchers, practitioners, administrators and stakeholders that have participated in MD-WERP over the last year. We've been delighted with the number and quality of publications generated this year and the evident utility value of the research findings described within them. We see a clear pathway in the years ahead for the uptake of the new knowledge generated and are confident that Basin management will be improved as a result.

*Professor Rob Vertessy FTSE
Chair, MD-WERP Governing Panel*

Erosion videos online

We recently added new erosion videos, produced as part of an MD-WERP tactical project, to the MDBA website. Erosion is a natural process that has shaped rivers for millennia. Now, human activities are influencing river erosion too.



[Watch online](#)

Annual progress update 2022-2023

The annual progress update 2022-2023 is now available. Our new science and research is already supporting water managers and decision makers to plan for the future. Research outcomes and findings are being shared with Basin communities and industries, which will continue as more projects are completed.

[Read more](#)

Bushfire research

Recent research as part of the climate adaptation theme has investigated the impact of bushfires on water availability.

[Read more](#)





AFSS conference

We sponsored the Australian Freshwater Sciences Society conference, held in Albury 2-6 December 2024.

Luke McPhan (CSIRO, formerly LTU) presented on the MD-WERP strategic research project *Native fish population persistence* - see [Spatially explicit meta population models of the Darling \(Baaka\) River system](#).

A presentation by Andre Siebers (LTU) titled *Interactions between cyanobacterial blooms, organic matter dynamics, and river regulation: frequency and severity under climate change* built on the [MD-WERP blue-green algae tactical project](#) completed in 2023.

New reports released

Our projects are continuing to uncover new information and generate new tools to improve water and environmental management and outcomes for Basin communities. Newly published reports since our last newsletter include:

- [T1.FS2 An assessment of impact of landscape farm dams and climate change on catchment runoff](#)
- [T1.FS4 Understanding the impacts of hydrological non-stationarity on runoff projections](#)
- [T3.11.2.3 Long-term persistence and connectivity of in channel refuge waterbodies in the Darling \(Baaka\) River](#)
- [T3.9.2.3 Forecasting risks to fish and their available habitat from low flows and hypoxia](#)



2025 MD-WERP Symposium

The MD-WERP Symposium will be held in Canberra in mid-2025. The symposium will provide an opportunity for researchers and policy makers, including Basin government representatives, to delve into research projects and outputs. We will also examine how science can best inform policy. Keep an eye on your emails for confirmation of dates and details on how to register.

[2024 Symposium review](#)

Please do not reply directly to this email. To contact the Murray–Darling Water and Environment Research Program, email mdwerp@mdba.gov.au or phone [1800 230 067](tel:1800230067). Our postal address is:
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The Murray–Darling Basin Authority offers respect to the Traditional Custodians of Country and their Nations of the Murray–Darling Basin. We acknowledge their continuing deep cultural, social, environmental, spiritual and economic connection to their lands and waters. We pay our respects to Elders past and present.