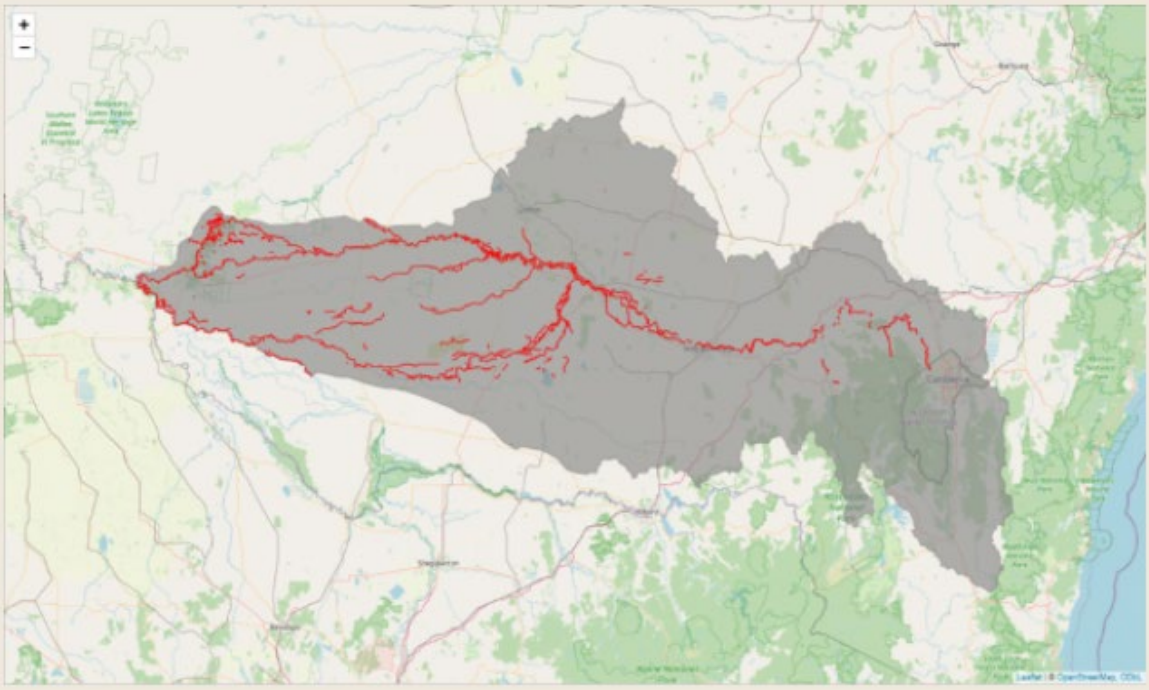
Australian Government

Murray–Darling Water & Environment Research

March 2025

Impacts of a changing climate on animals and plants

In the next decade, it is likely that temperatures will rise, and there will be less water in the Basin due to the changing climate. This will impact where water-based animals and plants can live. To better understand their water needs, this new research aimed to find out where aquatic animals and plants live now in the Murray–Darling Basin and how this might change in the future.



Recent MD-WERP research models future habitat for aquatic species in the Murray–Darling Basin.

Read more

Message from the Governing Panel

Professor Rob Vertessy FTSE
Chair, MD–WERP Governing Panel

As we approach the end of the Murray–Darling Water and Environment Research Program (MD-WERP) our research teams are working feverishly to complete their projects, with a particular emphasis on research publication and public outreach.

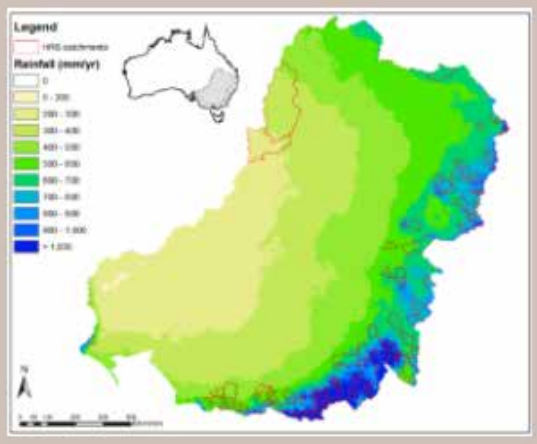
Different types of outputs are being used to inform Basin planning processes. This includes new conceptual understanding, new data sets and new predictive models that help us better understand the impacts of various management and policy options. Empowering end users in government agencies and Basin communities with these outputs is adding great value to the planning processes underway.

2025 MD-WERP Symposium

Dates: 10 to 11 June 2025
Location: Hyatt Hotel Canberra

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.

Register here



Modelling water runoff in an uncertain future

Non-stationarities (or continual alteration) means the future drivers of change will be different to those experienced in the past, requiring more sophisticated predictive modelling approaches. MD-WERP research investigated how to include future environmental change in water runoff models.

Read more

Annual Progress Update 2023-24

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Read the Annual Progress Update

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.FS5 - Understanding risks of hypoxic blackwater and low dissolved oxygen events under climate change. Read report
- T1.FS6 - Synthesis of indirect impacts of climate change on water availability in the Murray–Darling Basin. Read report
- T4.12.2.4 Recreational and tourism value of healthy rivers. Read report
- T4.12.2.5 Plain English summary of Recreational and tourism value of healthy rivers. Read report
- T4.12.2.6 Recreational and tourism value of healthy rivers Extension A. Read report
- TP17 - Operational Ranges of the River Murray Fishways – Summary. Read report

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Explore the Basin

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.