



Government of South Australia



Australian Government

# MURRAY FUTURE'S Riverine Recovery

## EARLY ON-GROUND WORKS

The *Riverine Recovery Project (RRP)* features an **Early On-ground Works** component which will deliver the first round of works and infrastructure at **Pike Floodplain, Katfish Reach (Katarapko Floodplain) and Yatco Lagoon.**

The *Riverine Recovery Project (RRP)* is a key component of South Australia's \$610 million *Murray Futures* program which is funded by the Australian Government's *Water for the Future* initiative.

RRP aims to improve the river's health and the resilience of its wetlands and floodplains from the South Australian-Victorian border to Wellington.

The project will improve the long-term prospects of floodplains and wetlands by more efficient use of environmental water and deliver up to 15 gigalitres of environmental water savings to the Commonwealth.

### Works to improve floodplains and wetlands

Many years of water over-allocation and river regulation has seen a decline in the health of the River Murray system, exacerbated by an extended period of drought across the Murray-Darling Basin.

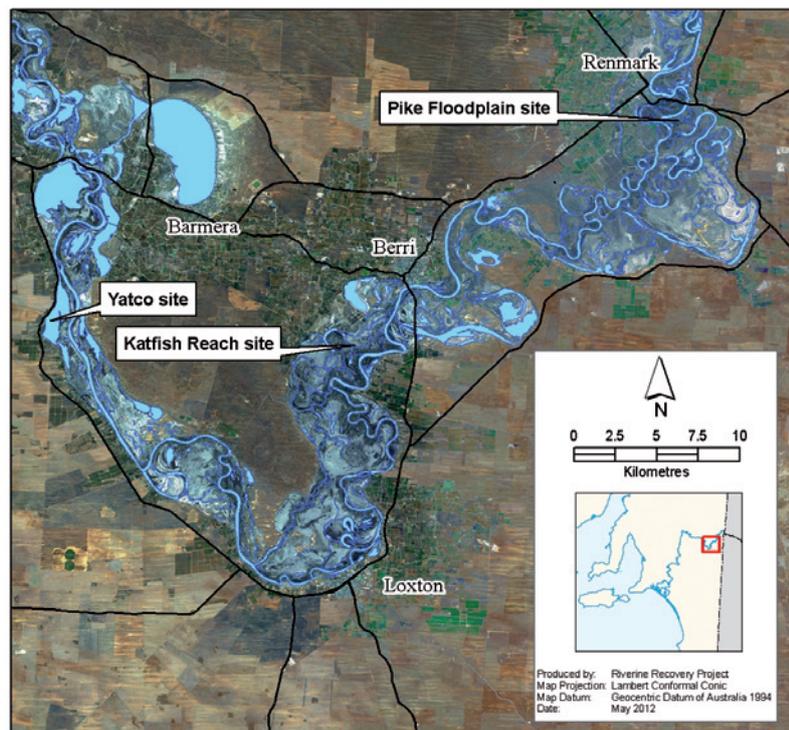
Improved management of environmental water through the Early On-ground Works will contribute to making the Pike Floodplain, Katfish Reach and Yatco Lagoon more resilient for potential drought and a future of lower water availability.

### What will the works include?

The RRP Early On-ground Works at Katfish Reach will include upgrades to, and construction of, infrastructure to manage the habitat of the vulnerable Murray hardyhead, improve environmental flow to the Katarapko Island Drainage Basin, and establish fish passage connectivity within the floodplain.



Murray hardyhead (*Craterocephalus fluviatilis*).



Locations of the RRP Early On-ground Works.

Early Works at the Pike Floodplain will involve the assessment of irrigation infrastructure under varying water levels, construction of a new inlet regulator at Deep Creek incorporating a bridge and improved fish passage. The works will establish the critical infrastructure necessary for the management of environmental flows, fish passage and habitat within the floodplain.

At Yatco Lagoon, an embankment to disconnect the lagoon from the main river was constructed in 2007. RRP will upgrade this embankment to include additional flow regulators with carp screens to improve the connectivity and fish movements between the river and the lagoon.

These works include the relocation of off-takes to the main channel of the river, which will enable the implementation of the local wetland management plan without disrupting irrigators and domestic water users.

The implementation of an adaptive management system to restore more natural wetting and drying regimes

will assist with the recovery of the Yatco Lagoon. This will also deliver environmental water savings and a significant social benefit for the community through substantially improving the visual landscape and the ecology within Yatco Lagoon.

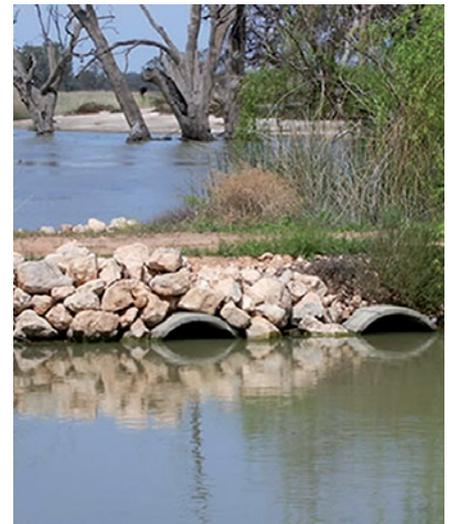


Existing Yatco Lagoon pump infrastructure.

**The local community, including irrigators, has played a significant role in the development of the proposals.**



Yatco Lagoon.



Yatco Lagoon Causeway, separating the North and South Lagoons.

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