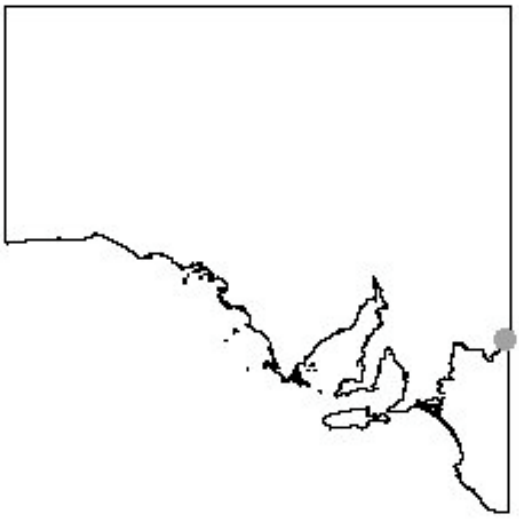
Biological Survey of the Chowilla Floodplain, Murray River

O'Malley, C., and Sheldon, F. (1990). *Chowilla Floodplain Biological* Study., (Nature Conservation Soc. SA, South Australia).

Undertaken by:	Nature Conservation Society South Australia
Surveyed in:	1988
Published:	1990
Availability:	$22.00 (incl GST) from NCSSA. 120 Wakefield St Adelaide 5000
	(www.ncssa.asn.au)



Summary:

The Chowilla Floodplain is the largest region of floodplain habitat in the lower Murray River, occupying 1,650 km^2 upstream from Renmark. The survey was conducted during early October 1998 using standard, integrative biological survey techniques. The major aims of the survey were to:

- produce an inventory of the plant species occurring on the floodplain and associated alluvial terraces and describe patterns of plant community distribution;
- determine the full range of aquatic and terrestrial habitats present in the region;
- assess habitat use by birds, reptiles, mammals, fish and aquatic invertebrates;
- document species of conservation significance recorded during the survey, and identify areas of biological significance for flora and fauna within the floodplain;
- enable an informed assessment of the likely impacts of salinity control measures proposed for the region;
- produce a report detailing the findings of the survey as a reference for land managers, government departments, scientists, students and others.

In addition to this report, 2 scientific papers have resulted from the survey: Roberts and Ludwig, 1990 and Boulton and Lloyd (in review).

The chapters in the report describe the Floodplain vegetation, birds, mammals, reptiles and frogs, physical limnology, macrophyte communities, aquatic macrocrustaceans, aquatic macroinvertebrate communities and fish of the Chowilla floodplain and anabranch system. The final chapter in this report addresses management issues relevant to the maintenance of the diverse terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems at Chowilla.