2014–15 Murray–Darling Basin
Environmental Watering Priorities

During 2014–15 there will be seven Basin-scale Priorities for environmental watering within the Murray–Darling Basin. The Priorities aim to *connect rivers and floodplains* (1 & 2), *support in-stream functions* (3 to 5) and *enhance and protect refuge habitat* (6 & 7).

The Priorities aim to maximise environmental benefits by coordinating and collaborating through effective governance arrangements, through the use of all water, and by managing water in harmony with natural cues.

The Priorities take a whole-of-basin approach. Environmental water managers, such as the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder, need to consider MDBA priorities alongside local priorities that Basin states develop.

A snapshot of the priorities is provided below. More detail on each of the priorities is provided in supporting information on our website: *www.mdba.gov.au*

1 — Gwydir Wetlands

Improve wetland health and connections between habitats by providing water in ways that meet ecological requirements.

2 — Mid-Murrumbidgee wetlands

Improve wetland health by providing a pulse of water (known as a 'fresh') in winter or spring.
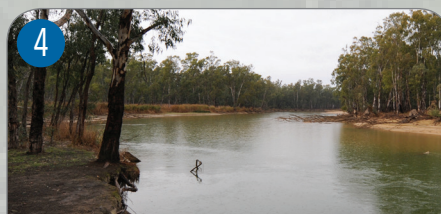
3 — Macquarie River

Support native fish communities by releasing flows in harmony with natural cues and by addressing cold water pollution.

4 — Connectivity in the River Murray system

Improve aquatic vegetation and native fish populations by coordinating water delivery to support connectivity in the River Murray system through to the Coorong and Murray Mouth.

5 — Winter flows for fish in the southern Basin

Provide winter flows to tributaries and creeks of the River Murray and through the barrages to the Coorong; to improve survival, recruitment, and condition of native fish populations.

6 — Native fish in the northern Basin

Maintain dry period refuge habitat in the northern Basin to enhance survival of native fish populations during the forecasted dry period.
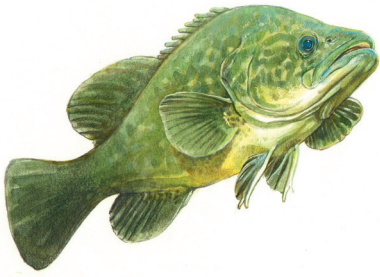
7 — Waterbird refuges

Support waterbird populations across the Basin by watering refuge sites – to maintain habitat and food sources, and support breeding where feasible.

Australian Government

MURRAY–DARLING BASIN AUTHORITY

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Connect rivers and floodplains
1 Gwydir Wetlands
2 Mid-Murrumbidgee wetlands

Support in-stream functions
3 Macquarie River
4 Connectivity in the River Murray system
5 Winter flows for fish in the southern Basin

Enhance and protect refuge habitat
6 Native fish in the northern Basin
7 Waterbird refuge

Gwydir River

Macquarie River

Darling River

River Murray

Lachlan River

Murrumbidgee River