



Lower Balonne Flow-MER program

The Lower Balonne River region's waterways and wetlands are not only vital for the wildlife that depend on them but the people who call the region their home and ancestral lands and those who rely on them for recreation, agriculture and other activities.

Flow-MER is a program run by the [Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder](#) (CEWH) to undertake monitoring, evaluation and research (MER) on the outcomes of environmental water delivery to provide information to support environmental water management in the Murray-Darling Basin.

The program has been running for several years with three new MER areas added to the program in 2024 including the Lower Balonne River system.

The University of New South Wales (UNSW) Centre for Ecosystem Science has been engaged by the CEWH to conduct Flow-MER activities in the Lower Balonne River system including the internationally significant, Ramsar-protected Narran Lakes (Dharriwaa).

The Lower Balonne Flow-MER project team is headed up by UNSW's Dr Kate Brandis, who works with researchers and others to undertake the work.



L-R: Jennifer Spencer and Joanne Ocock during the first Lower Balonne Flow-MER waterbird survey in August 2024

The current program runs from July 2024 until June 2029 with MER activities informing the below themes:

- Cultural outcomes (determined by Aboriginal People)
- River flows and connectivity
- Native vegetation
- Waterbirds
- Native fish.



Dharriwaa (Narran Lakes) in January 2023

More information

Visit www.flow-mer.org.au or www.unsw.edu.au/research/ecosystem to learn more about the program, or contact the UNSW's Flow-MER Communications Officer, Jane Howard, at jane.howard@unsw.edu.au.

Top banner image: Narran Lakes during an Australian Pelican breeding event, March 2023



Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge First Nations people as the Traditional Custodians of the land and waters of the Murray–Darling Basin and pay respect to their Elders past and present. We recognise their intrinsic cultural, social, environmental, spiritual and economic connection to Country.