



Macquarie River and Marshes – Opportunities on Country

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 CEWH is committed to partnering and working meaningfully with Aboriginal People in the planning, delivery and monitoring of water for the environment. This includes providing opportunities to empower and support Aboriginal People to care for Country and building partnerships with Aboriginal People in ways that they determine. [Learn more about this on the CEWH's website.](#)

The program has been running for several years with three new MER Areas added to the program in 2024 including the Macquarie River and Marshes Area.

The CEWH has listened to Aboriginal partners by increasing targeted investment in Flow-MER for Aboriginal contribution and participation, in ways that they determine and based on the principle of free, prior and informed consent.

The University of New South Wales (UNSW) Centre for Ecosystem Science has been engaged by the CEWH to conduct Flow-MER activities in the Macquarie River and Marshes.

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.

The Macquarie River and Marshes Flow-MER project team is headed up by UNSW's Professor Richard Kingsford, who works with researchers and others to undertake the work.

Aboriginal People's MER

The Wayilwan people led by Danielle Flakelar are the cultural advisors for the Macquarie River and Marshes Flow-MER program. They will support relationship building between Aboriginal People with connection to Country and UNSW staff. Cultural advisors will work with Aboriginal People with connection to Country to:

- Facilitate knowledge sharing between Aboriginal People, and between Aboriginal People and UNSW staff
- Identify opportunities and activities to support the values and aspirations of Aboriginal People
- Facilitate opportunities for Aboriginal People to be involved in the design and implementation of Flow-MER projects and activities.

In working together, UNSW will support the protection of Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property (ICIP) and Indigenous Data Sovereignty rights as appropriate for the Aboriginal People that we work with.

More information

Please contact UNSW Senior Research Fellow Dr Kate Brandis at kate.brandis@unsw.edu.au, or UNSW Flow-MER Communications Officer Jane Howard at jane.howard@unsw.edu.au, for more information or if you would like to be involved in the program.

We are excited to support joint learning about the magnificent Macquarie River and Marshes and its cultural and biological diversity.

Top banner image: Macquarie Marshes, August 2024.



The Flow-MER Program team acknowledges the Aboriginal communities of the Murray–Darling Basin and pays respect to Elders past and present. We acknowledge Aboriginal People as the Traditional Owners of the land, water and sky Country across the Basin and value the expertise, wisdom and enduring connections that have informed their care for Country over millennia. We recognise the intrinsic connection of Aboriginal People to Country, and we value the enduring cultural, social, environmental, spiritual, and economic connection to the rivers, wetlands, and floodplains of the Basin.