

5.2.3 Central Murray wetlands

Variation to the Seasonal Watering Plan 2019-20

This variation was made to the Central Murray wetlands section of the *Seasonal Watering Plan 2019-20* by the VEWB Commission on 18 December 2019.

Please note the amended text in red below.

Table 5.2.5 Potential environmental watering actions and objectives for the central Murray wetlands

Potential environmental watering action	Functional watering objective	Environmental objective
Round Lake (top-ups as required to maintain water quality targets)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain salinity within 25,000–40,000 EC¹ to support suitable habitat and breeding conditions for Murray hardyhead and growing conditions for submerged aquatic plants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fish Vegetation
Lake Elizabeth (top-ups as required to maintain water quality targets)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain salinity within 25,000–40,000 EC¹ to support suitable habitat and breeding conditions for Murray hardyhead and growing conditions for submerged aquatic plants Provide permanent water as habitat for waterbirds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fish Vegetation Waterbirds
Wirra-Lo wetland complex – Duck Creek North, Duck Creek South, Lignum Swamp North and Broilga Swamp (fill in spring/ <i>summer/autumn, top-ups as required</i>)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain the health of open woodland vegetation, lignum and other aquatic vegetation Provide feeding and breeding habitat for growling grass frog and other frog species Provide foraging habitat for shallow-wading waterbirds and mudflat specialists Provide refuge and recruitment sites for freshwater turtles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amphibians Turtles Vegetation Waterbirds
Wirra-Lo wetland complex – Red Gum Swamp (fill in spring)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain the health of existing red gum trees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vegetation
Wirra-Lo wetland complex – Bittern West and Bittern East wetlands (partial fill in spring/ <i>summer/autumn, top-ups as required</i>)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the growth of newly-established reed beds to create nesting habitat for Australasian bittern 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Birds Vegetation
Guttrum Forest (fill in spring and autumn, with top-ups in summer if required to support waterbird breeding)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inundate the existing adult river red gums to support their growth and drown river red gum saplings in the open-water habitat Promote the growth and re-establishment of aquatic and tall marsh vegetation Maintain the depth of the wetland to support waterbird feeding and breeding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vegetation Waterbirds Aboriginal icon

Potential environmental watering action	Functional watering objective	Environmental objective
Johnson Swamp (fill in spring – with through-flow to Pyramid Creek, with top-ups in summer/autumn to support bird breeding if required ²)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote waterbird breeding and feeding Restrict the growth of tall marsh vegetation by preventing otherwise favourable warm, shallow-water conditions Promote the growth of aquatic herbland species Provide refuge and recruitment sites for freshwater turtles Provide carbon and nutrients to Pyramid Creek 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Birds Connectivity Turtles Vegetation
McDonalds Swamp (partial fill in autumn)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote the growth of planted and naturally recruited river red gums Support the germination of aquatic vegetation Promote winter feeding conditions for waterbirds and frogs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amphibians Birds Vegetation
Lake Cullen (top-up in spring, and as required to support waterbird breeding ²)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain waterbird refuge Promote the growth and recruitment of submerged aquatic plants Maintain water levels to support waterbird breeding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Birds Vegetation
Third Reedy Lake (fill in summer to support breeding of Southern purple-spotted gudgeon, top-up in autumn and winter as required)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain target water level (> 74.0m AHD) to support critical habitat and breeding for the Southern purple-spotted gudgeon 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fish
Wetland drying		
Lake Murphy, Hird Swamp and Richardsons Lagoon will not be actively watered in 2019–20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prevent drowning existing trees in the bed of wetlands Promote herbland species and establish fringing vegetation around the edge of each wetland Reduce the extent of water-dependent invasive species (such as cumbungi) Allow for oxidation of the soil (Richardsons Lagoon) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vegetation

Note

- EC stands for electrical conductivity, which is a measure of water salinity.*
- Top-ups to support waterbird breeding may occur if species of high conservation significance display breeding behaviour or nesting activity, or if large numbers of waterbirds have nests with live chicks.*