





Backwater Lagoon, New South Wales (M. Mohell & DEWHA)

## WATERING IN NEW SOUTH WALES

### Backwater Lagoon

Backwater Lagoon is in the Wangumma State Forest, between the inlet and outlet of Lake Victoria west of Wentworth near the South Australian border. The site supports River Red Gum stands and habitats for species including the Regent Parrot and the Southern Bell Frog, listed as vulnerable under the EPBC Act. The use of water is to avoid irretrievable damage and provide drought refuge. Watering in Autumn and early Winter will maintain soil moisture and promote growth in vegetation in the Spring. This site was watered by the NSW Government in 2005–2006 under the Red Gum Rescue Project and watering now will ensure gains from the earlier watering are consolidated. The earlier watering resulted in frog and bird breeding, provided habitat for a number of birds and improved the health of trees and other vegetation.

Backwater Lagoon will receive 1,000 ML.

## WATERING IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

### Markaranka Floodplain

The Markaranka Floodplain, near Waikerie, is one of four priority floodplain areas along the length of the River Murray in South Australia. Watering at this site aims to avoid irretrievable loss of River Red Gum Communities and provide drought refuge for species including the Southern Bell Frog, listed as vulnerable under the EPBC Act, and six species of rare duck.

The Markaranka wetland complex will receive 2,236 ML.

### Overland Corner Floodplain

The Overland Corner Floodplain, near Kingston-on-Murray, consists of large areas of River Red Gum, and is a habitat known to support the nationally threatened Regent Parrot. Overland Corner also supports the Great Egret which is listed under Australia's bilateral agreement with China on the protection of migratory birds (CAMBA), and the nationally threatened Southern Bell Frog. Watering is expected to prevent permanent environmental damage including significant loss of mature River Red Gums and other flood-dependent vegetation and to provide a critical drought refuge for aquatic species.

The Overland Corner Floodplain will receive 500 ML.

### Chowilla Floodplain

The Chowilla Floodplain is north of Renmark and on the SA/NSW border. Chowilla is an icon site under *The Living Murray* program and part of the Riverland Ramsar site. It contains large areas of River Red Gum, Black Box woodland and diverse wetland habitats. Watering will help maintain the River Red Gums and understorey vegetation which are threatened by depletion of soil moisture and underlying saline groundwater, jeopardising habitats for a diverse range of waterbirds, fish, frogs and turtles.

Gum Flat on the Chowilla Floodplain will receive 1,500 ML of water. This site is an addition to those on Chowilla Floodplain that received Commonwealth environmental water in March 2009.



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## MORE INFORMATION

For more information about the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder and environmental watering call **1800 218 478** or visit: [www.environment.gov.au/water/environmental/cewh](http://www.environment.gov.au/water/environmental/cewh)

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