

2025 Annual Update

Refreshing Rivers Program is in year 5 of the 10-year program to improve waterway health across 3 Target Areas the Central Billabong, Upper Billabong and Riverina Highlands. Together with our delivery partners, we have made great progress this year!

Upper Billabong

This year Ian Geddes Reserve has been developed as a public demonstration site for waterway rehabilitation, where instream works such as woody weed control, log realignment, and the removal of blockages have been undertaken, creating important habitat for Southern Pygmy Perch. Bank stabilisation has been supported through the reinstatement of fringing woodland vegetation and the installation of nest boxes for squirrel gliders. Planning has commenced for additional Southern Pygmy Perch priority stream works.



Central Billabong

On-ground works included instream plantings at Billabong Creek and Yanco Creek by Yarkuwa Rangers, a citizen science event with Boys to the Bush, and wetland plantings by Coleambally Central School. Fish restocking saw 25,700 golden perch and over 1,000 eel-tailed catfish released across priority sites, supported by DPI Fisheries grants, alongside completion of the region's first Natural Capital Profile.



Our Vision: Improving waterway health through meaningful partnerships and collaboration

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Riverina Highlands

Demonstration sites were established at Tumut Wetlands, Brungle, and along Goobaragandra, Morleys and Adelong Creeks, alongside the completion of Natural Capital Profiles across 12,690 hectares. The project delivered 10 community workshops on topics including Fishcare, low-cost waterway solutions, rare plant propagation, hollow habitats, cultural weaving and citizen science, while restoration works supported endangered species such as Macquarie Perch, Tumut Grevillea, Murray Cod, Platypus and the Booroolong Frog.



Program level

The Strategic Business Plan was completed, with planning underway for instream works, including assessment methods and consultation. A MERI workshop was delivered, communications maintained, and governance supported through key groups, while a permanent coordinator and project officers were appointed for the next four years

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