



Australian Government  
Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder



## Flow-MER PROGRAM – AREA-SCALE PROGRESS REPORT

### Background

The Quarterly Progress report is a standard project management requirement and aims to provide an update on:

- how the project is tracking overall
- progress to date on key activities
- issues, risks associated with the key activities
- key activities undertaken and upcoming
- input to adaptive management

The Quarterly Progress report relates to activities carried out over the financial year as outlined in the Annual Implementation Plan (AIP).

### Requirements

#### 1. Milestone deliverables

As outlined in the contract, a Project Progress Report is required quarterly each financial year:

- a. Quarter 1: 30 September
- b. Quarter 2: 30 December
- c. Quarter 3: 30 March
- d. Quarter 4: 30 June

#### 2. Statement of work and performance criteria

Area-scale Service Providers should refer to the Statement of Work, Milestones, Meetings, Reporting and Deliverables and the performance criteria as set out in the Area-scale Contract - Schedule 5, Schedule 6 and Schedule 12 respectively.

The following Performance Indicators provide a guide to the Service Provider in the delivery of the Quarterly Progress Report:

**Service Delivery:** meets deliverables on time as detailed in Schedule 6, for approval by Commonwealth.

**Collaboration:** effectively collaborate with stakeholders to deliver the Flow-MER program as per Schedule 3 Governance and Collaboration Principles. This includes attending and contributing to all required meetings and workshops detailed in Schedule 6.

**Outcomes:** meets outcomes and objectives under the Approved MER Plan and Annual Implementation Plan.







### Guidance




Template is provided at [Attachment A](#)

## Attachment A

Flow-MER Quarterly Progress Report		
Murrumbidgee		
<b>Project Leader:</b>	Skye Wassens	Phone: 0404 495 578
<b>Report period:</b>	1 January – 31 March 2025	

## Project Health Summary

Indicator	Status/Traffic light	Comment
<b>Overall Rating</b>		<p><i>Status: Is the project on track to deliver requirements as outlined in the MER Plan and AIP for this financial year?</i></p> <p><i>Status – on track</i></p>
<b>Time (schedule)</b>		<p><i>Status: Is this project (and activities) forecast date of completion tracking to the AIP schedule?</i></p> <p><i>Status – on track</i></p>
<b>Engagement</b>		<p><i>Status/Traffic light question: What is the current status of the relationship with project and other stakeholders?</i></p> <p><i>Status – on track</i></p>
<b>Safety</b>		<p><i>Status/Traffic light question: Has there been a safety incident, or have any inadequacies been identified in the safety planning (note, details on any incidents or inadequacies must be communicated to the CEWH as soon as practical)?</i></p> <p><i>Status – no incidents</i></p>
<b>Risks</b>		<p><i>Status/Traffic light question: Have any future or potential risks been identified that may impact our ability to achieve committed outcomes?</i></p> <p><i>If yes, fill out further details in table ‘Overarching project risks, Opportunities &amp; Issues’ (pg. 6).</i></p> <p><i>Status – two risks identified (refer to table ‘Overarching project risks, Opportunities &amp; Issues’)</i></p>
<b>Issues</b>		<p><i>Status/Traffic light question: Are there any current issues that may impact our ability to achieve committed outcomes?</i></p>

		Status - no issues likely to impact the outcomes at this stage.
	<b>On track</b> - Tasks are completed or on track and there are no issues	
	<b>Delayed</b> - Tasks are delayed or under pressure, but not influencing the outputs of the project	
	<b>Not on track</b> - Tasks are delayed and are influencing the projects' ability to meet its commitments	

## Summary of Progress on Activities for this Quarter

**For All the following sections please advise of what has been delivered against what was proposed in the Annual Implementation Plan or Work Order for this quarter in this financial year.**

### Monitoring

Themes: River Flows & Connectivity, Native Vegetation, Waterbirds, Native Fish and Cultural Outcomes

Theme	Contributing to Basin/Area/Both	What has been delivered in this Quarter? Any risks/comments?
Native vegetation	Both	Ground surveys carried out at 16 sites on 20-24 Jan and at 2 sites on 29-30 Jan  Drone monitoring of lignum carried out at Gayini on 26-28 Mar
Native fish, frogs & turtles	Both	Surveys carried out at 9 sites on 27-31 Jan
Waterbirds	Both	Surveys carried out at 14 sites on 24-26 Feb

### First Nations activities

Description of activity	What has been delivered in this Quarter? Any risks/comments?
First Nations knowledge sharing meeting	Fleur Stelling (CSU) convened meeting on 6 Feb to discuss collaborating in relation to knowledge exchange and capacity building across Murray and Murrumbidgee areas. The meeting was attended by Nioka Dupond (MLI), Richard McTernan and Aunty Valda Murray (both Duduroa Dhargal Aboriginal Corporation), Robyn Watts (CSU), Skye Wassens (CSU) and Erin Lenon (CEWH). An outcome is to hold bimonthly meetings convened by Fleur and continue to develop our approach to knowledge sharing, as per AIP.
Liaison with Cultural Advisor	Fleur Stelling and Nioka Dupond met on 6 Feb to discuss First Nations activities for 2025, as per AIP: knowledge sharing meetings, field trip opportunities, seed collection and propagation event, Bioblitz at Fivebough, Mutthi Mutthi meeting about cultural event.

Mutthi Mutthi event planning meeting	Fleur Stelling (as per AIP) convened a collaborative meeting on 11 Mar to plan Mutthi Mutthi event in Oct 2025, attended by Nioka Dupond (MLI), Michele Groat (CEWH), Erin Lenon (CEWH), Fleur Stelling (CSU), Auntie Patsy Winch (Mutthi Mutthi).
Fivebough Bioblitz event planning meeting	Fleur Stelling (as per AIP) convened a collaborative meeting on 11 Mar to plan Bioblitz event in Oct 2025 at Fivebough wetland, attended by Nioka Dupond (MLI), Michele Groat (CEWH), Erin Lenon (CEWH), Fleur Stelling (CSU), Sarah Talbot (CSU), Jessie McPherson (MLI).
Creative output	As per AIP: Fleur Stelling continued working with Wiradjuri artist Ashleigh Pengelly to produce endangered species poster. Fleur also liaising with Andy Lowes about linking poster to Flow-MER website.
Engagement – Murrumbidgee Regional Aboriginal Water Committee (MRAWC)	As per AIP: Fleur Stelling continued liaising with the MRAWC and was to present at February meeting however this was re-scheduled to May.
Mutthi Mutthi participation in bird survey field trip	As per AIP relating to First Nations involvement in field trips, Jedda Kelly, Maxine Kelly and Cheryl Charles from the Mutthi Mutthi attended a bird survey field trip to Western Lakes and North Redbank with CSU's Sarah Talbot, Chris Sundblom and Fleur Stelling, on 24 to 26 Feb. It was a worthwhile trip with positive feedback about being out on Country and learning about bird monitoring. CSU has engaged Mutthi Mutthi members as casual employees to take part in monitoring.
Lignum monitoring at Gayini	As per AIP: CSU's Andrew Hall and Chris Sundblom worked with rangers at Gayini to undertake lignum monitoring using drone technology on 26-28Mar.

## Knowledge Exchange, Communications and Engagement

Description of activity	What has been delivered in this Quarter? Any risks/comments
<b>Social media activity</b>	As per AIP (3 posts per quarter): social media accounts active (Instagram and X). Posts made about <a href="#">Doing wetland science</a> on 6 Feb; <a href="#">surveying birds</a> on 4 Mar, and <a href="#">World Frog day</a> on 20 Mar.
<b>Publishing – Flow-MER website</b>	As per AIP (2 articles published to Flow-MER website per year): article published on 4 Feb: <a href="#">2024 – Another Great Year for Southern Bell Frogs: A Success Story in Conservation - Flow-MER</a>
<b>Email updates</b>	Vegetation survey update on 23 Jan.  Fish, frog, turtle survey update on 4 Feb.  Waterbird survey update provided on 24 Mar.

<b>Digital story</b>	As per AIP: Fleur Stelling and Michele Groat (CEWH) met with landholders Peter Morton and Sue Morton on 25 Feb to discuss the possibility of doing a digital story and to provide details and examples of what would be involved.
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## Research

Description of activity	What has been delivered in this Quarter? Any risks/comments
<b>Multi-modal capture project</b>	As per AIP: Mitchell Whitelaw continuing to process and produce <u>footage</u> from November 2024. Equipment maintained by CSU field staff on 26 Feb. Project is on track with no foreseeable risks.

## Responsive monitoring

Work order name and number (1, 2, 3)	Committed to deliver (as per work order) this Quarter	What has been delivered this Quarter?
N/A		

## Reporting

### Reports as per contract:

Quarterly Progress Report (QPR)

Quarterly Snapshot (QS)

Draft Annual Area-scale MER Report (DMER)

Final Annual Area-scale MER Report (FMER)

Data upload (DATA)

Report	Milestone due	Deliverables/comments
Quarterly Progress Report (QPR)	31 March 2025	Submitted to CEWH 25 Mar
Quarterly Snapshot (QS)	31 March 2025	Submitted to CEWH 25 Mar

## Meeting requirements

### Meetings attended as per Area-scale contract:

Area-scale Project Team (ASPT)

Thematic Working Groups (TWG) (River Flows & Connectivity, Native Vegetation, Waterbirds, Native Fish and Cultural Outcomes)

Knowledge Exchange Working Group (KEWG)

Cultural Network (CN) (Contractually known as Cultural Knowledge Network Working Group (CKNWG))

Data Management Working Group (DMWG)

Flow-MER Steering Committee Meetings (FM-SCM)

Annual Flow-MER Forum (AFMF)

Meeting attended /or held	Date	Personnel in attendance
<b>Knowledge Exchange Working Group (KEWG)</b>	27/02/25	Skye Wassens
<b>Area-scale Project Team (ASPT)</b>	Fortnightly meetings	Fortnightly meetings since July 2024
<b>Thematic Working Groups (TWG) (River Flows &amp; Connectivity, Native Vegetation, Waterbirds, Native Fish and Cultural Outcomes)</b>	WB 26/02/25 NF 21/03/25 NV 19/03/25 RFC 21/03/25 CO 17/03/25	Waterbirds (WB) Skye Wassens Native Fish (NF) Gordon O'Brien Native Vegetation (NV) Skye Wassens River Flows & Connectivity (RFC) Andrew Hall Cultural Outcomes (CO) Nioka Dupond, Fleur Stelling
<b>Cultural Network (CN) (Contractually known as Cultural Knowledge Network Working Group (CKNWG))</b>	17/03/25	Nioka Dupond, Fleur Stelling
<b>Data Management Working Group (DMWG)</b>	20/03/25	Andrew Hall
<b>Flow-MER Steering Committee Meetings (FM-SCM)</b>	N/A	To meet 8/4/25 (previous meeting in Nov 2024)

<b>EWAG</b>	04/03/25 - 05/03/25	Skye Wassens
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## Adaptive management

An opportunity to provide an update on new knowledge or insights during this Quarter to assist in adaptive management of the delivery of environmental water.

This may include outcomes and advice from external meetings, such as EWAGs.

Observations/outcomes
<p>Recommendations from waterbird planning meeting on 18 March:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Long duration stable flows for Australasian bitterns between October 2025 and February 2026</li> <li>- Create shallow habitat mosaics for painted snipe in Western Lakes and possibly Gayini.</li> </ul>

## Overarching project Risks, Opportunities & Issues

Risk / issue	Action
New legislation on batteries with the potential to impact use of electrofishing boat	Investigate implications
Bird flu	Follow DCCEEW guidelines for field surveys

## Upcoming activities for next Quarter

Activities to be undertaken in the upcoming period
<p>Call recorder download 7/4/25 to 11/4/25</p> <p>Lowbidgee waterbird surveys and remaining call recorder download 14/4/25 to 18/4/25</p> <p>Acoustic data screening 21/4/25 to 2/5/25</p> <p>Depth logger download 9/6/25 to 13/6/25</p> <p>Digital story completion by 30/6/25</p> <p>Creative output and mapping key habitats completion by 30/6/25</p> <p>Flow-MER website article completed by 30/6/25 to publish for NAIDOC week</p> <p>Multi-modal project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• complete data collection by 30/4/25</li> <li>• complete: data analysis and scoping; technical design and interface development; website architecture and outline development by 31/5/25 and</li> </ul>

- presentation of outline and Stakeholder meeting by 30/6/25.

Outstanding Information

Information required (item)	From Whom	Date required	Urgency (High/Medium/Low)