

## Murrumbidgee and Murray National Park Project (Yanga NP and Millewa Forest)

### The Sustainable Diversion Limit Adjustment Mechanism

The Sustainable Diversion Limit Adjustment Mechanism (SDLAM) is a program designed to achieve similar or improved environmental outcomes for rivers, wetlands and wildlife using less water. Part of the Murray-Darling Basin Plan (Basin Plan), SDLAM can be achieved through supply measures, including constraints, or efficiency measures.

In 2017, the Basin states and the Australian Government agreed a package of 36 SDLAM projects across the southern connected Murray-Darling Basin, which aim to recover 605 GL of water each year for the river system.

Of these, the NSW Government is the lead or co-proponent for 21 projects. These projects are being delivered in collaboration with local communities and key stakeholders, including other Basin states, with funding from the Australian Government.

### The SDLAM Acceleration Program

To date, 12 of NSW Government's SDLAM projects are complete or nearly complete and are delivering Basin Plan outcomes. The water recovered through these projects is already having positive impacts for Basin communities.

Building on this progress, the NSW Government is bringing forward \$330 million worth of its remaining SDLAM projects through the NSW SDLAM Acceleration Program (the Acceleration Program). This program will remove barriers and streamline construction funding arrangements to allow the delivery of five projects by June 2024.

The projects being accelerated include the:

- Sustainable Diversion Limit offsets in the Lower Murray: Locks 8 and 9 Project
- Yanco Creek Modernisation Project
- Murrumbidgee & Murray National Park Project
- Koondrook-Perricoota Flow Enabling Works Project
- Mid-Murray Anabranches Project.

This Acceleration Program will deliver up to 45 GL of the remaining water savings needed to reach the 605 GL target required by the Basin Plan each year, delivering strong ecological outcomes for the Murray-Darling Basin.

These projects will also play a key role in creating jobs in regional areas, generating an estimated 450 direct and 850 indirect regional jobs, and will provide a much-needed boost to the regional economies where the projects are being delivered.

### About the Murrumbidgee and Murray National Park Project

Located in the Yanga and Murray Valley National Parks, the Yanga and Millewa Supply Project is one of the projects being brought forward through the SDLAM Acceleration Program.

This project will provide improved environmental watering regimes to enhance environmental and cultural outcomes in these national parks by 2024.

In the Yanga National Park several options are being considered to improve environmental and cultural outcomes including:

- upgrading two primary regulators and a range of secondary regulators

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- upgrading road structures currently preventing water flow
- reopening flood paths by removing earthen embankments, including levees.

In the Murray Valley National Park (Millewa Forest) these outcomes could be achieved through several options, including:

- refurbishing River Murray regulators to facilitate fish passage
- creating sills in the Gulpa Channel to facilitate watering of Reedy Swamp North
- removing block banks and refurbishing the Little Edwards Offtake Regulator to restore fish migration pathways
- constructing sills and regulators in natural waterways co-opted for irrigation to prevent unseasonal spills into the forest
- upgrading the Bullatale Creek Irrigation Channel and regulator to enable a 'share' in capacity to water Aratula Creek.

### Project timelines

The project is currently in the problem definition and options development phase. As a result of the Acceleration Program it is anticipated this project will be complete by mid-2024.

### Benefits

Through the accelerated Murrumbidgee and Murray National Park Project (Yanga NP and Millewa Forest), the NSW Government will be able to deliver strong environmental and community benefits including:

- more targeted water delivery, increasing the viability of native grasses, shrubs and trees
- reduced potential for the local spread and dominance of river red gum saplings in moira grasslands and floodplains
- increased fish passage and improved supply of floodplain carbon to river food webs
- improved wetland condition, function and structure resulting in more favourable conditions for waterbirds and aquatic fauna
- a reduced incidence of over-watering and under-watering, which is attributed to increased mortality of native flora species
- improved conditions for Connection to Country.

### Consultation

The NSW Government will continue to consult with the project's key governance groups throughout the life of the project. Opportunities for broader community feedback, including feedback from traditional owners and Aboriginal communities, will be provided in the coming months.

### More information

For more information on the SDLAM Acceleration Program call 1300 081 047 or visit [dpie.nsw.gov.au/sdlam](https://dpie.nsw.gov.au/sdlam)