

Restoring Murray Waterways

Frequently Asked Questions

What is Restoring Murray Waterways (RMW)?

RMW is one of Australia's largest targeted and collaborative environmental watering initiatives. Focused on reviving the health of, and restoring connection to, our region's valuable creeks and wetlands, RMW uses Murray Irrigation's supply channel network to deliver environmental water to creeks and wetlands in the Murray Irrigation area that otherwise only receive water in times of extreme flooding.

Will engaging with the project affect Murray Irrigation water allocations/flow shares?

No. The project uses water already recovered through water reform; it does not alter existing allocations/flow shares. The Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder will not hold Murray Irrigation Delivery Entitlements and associated flow shares. Environmental water does not impact or come at the expense of MIL customers' access to water. Environmental water orders are cancelled when a channel reaches capacity.

Will I retain access to my land?

Yes. Infrastructure works carried out on private land are planned in consultation with landholders, ensuring access is maintained. Access to the site may be limited during the construction period, and will be worked through on a case-by-case basis with each landholder.

Why is this project beneficial for MIL shareholders?

RMW has been recognised as a Sustainable Diversion Limit Adjustment Mechanism (SDLAM)¹ Project, with successful outcomes assisting in the reduction of Water Buybacks as a contribution to the 605GL target under Basin Plan. RMW will also help diversify revenue for MIL and support our growth strategy. It will also position MIL as a leader in the Irrigation field for delivering environmental outcomes.

What if my landholding is scoped but I do not want the works?

Participation in RMW is voluntary. On-ground works will only proceed with sufficient landholder support.

If my landholding is scoped, will the works definitely occur?

No. Scoping identifies potential sites, but final delivery of works depends on alignment with project objectives (explained below), equity/distribution of works, and project budget.

How are wetlands selected?

Wetlands to be included in scope will be confirmed by February 2026. Not all potential sites identified will be included, and the most appropriate candidates will be decided based on:

- · Ecological Value
- Cost
- · Deliverability of water through the MIL system
- Cultural and Environmental Approvals (or barriers)
- Design (engineering) requirements
- Landholder interest

During the process, landholders will be informed of the status of scoping, and be provided with information regularly. The final decision relating to scoping will be communicated to landholders alongside an accompanying rationale for the decision.

What does involvement look like?

RMW uses agreements with participating landholders that are specific to different phases of the project. Initially, the agreements (landholder consent forms) enable sites to be scoped and any requisite Council and NSW Government construction approvals to take place.

Prior to construction, finalisation, and hand-over a second agreement will be executed with landholders, enabling the handing over of new assets to landholders, and Environmental Water Managers reasonable access to land for the purposes of watering (upon consultation with landholders on an ongoing basis).

Watering of wetlands is expected to take place infrequently (between once in every five and ten years), with landholder consent.

Where does funding come from?

Funds for the RMW project are currently being sought from the Commonwealth. MIL is working with the NSW Government on arrangements for delivery of the project which will be formally announced prior to any on-ground works.

¹ https://www.mdba.gov.au/water-management/basin-plan/sustainable-diversion-limit-adjustment-mechanism