

Resetting the Paradigm



Darren Willis / Kate Mason / Sam Hardy

SA River Murray Wetlands

- 250 wetland complexes along SA River Murray
- Board involved in more than 100 'managed' wetland sites
- 2 types -
 - a) Pool-Connected
 - b) Ephemeral Floodplain



Pool Connected Wetlands



- Connected at normal weir pool
- Generally managed by regulating structures
- Drying & refilling regimes - 3 to 24 months



Ephemeral (Pumped) Wetlands

- 'Ephemeral' floodplain wetlands
- Environmental water (CEWH)
- Generally, via fixed or mobile pumps



Our team of 'operational-ecologists'

- Our wetland ecologists are all well-qualified scientists, but the kind who roll their sleeves up and get into the mud.



It's a big work-space to keep on top of

- A constant program of field work → evidence-based adaptive management and operational decision-making.



OFFICIAL Threatened Native Fish - *The Big Little 4 Fish*

Captive breeding and managed surrogate-site populations – develop enough stock to underpin regular, larger scaled translocations



'Beyond Wetlands' surrogate site



Re-establishing ^{OFFICIAL} wild-site populations

Managed wild-site populations – larger scaled translocations and careful site management



*Photo Courtesy :
NGT*

Making wild sites more ^{OFFICIAL} 'accommodating'

The challenge is that wild-site locations/conditions have not generally been suitable to support successful sustained translocated populations ...***So how do we change that?***



The results can be dramatic...

But its not a *one size fits all* solution... sustaining the outcomes in a variety of differently configured wetlands is a complex challenge. ***But we've been finding some incredible success...***



...At every site

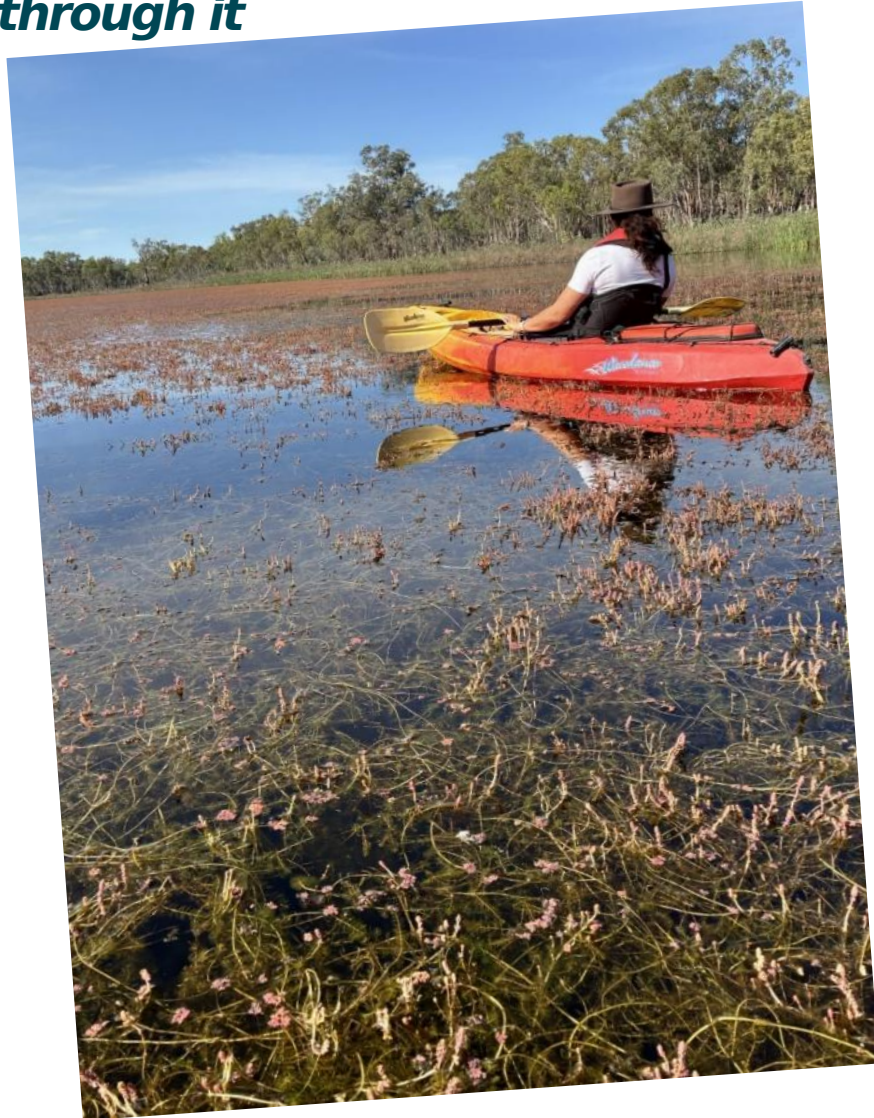


...At any scale



Diverse and vigorous aquatic assemblages...

So thick you sometimes can barely paddle through it ...or even wade through it



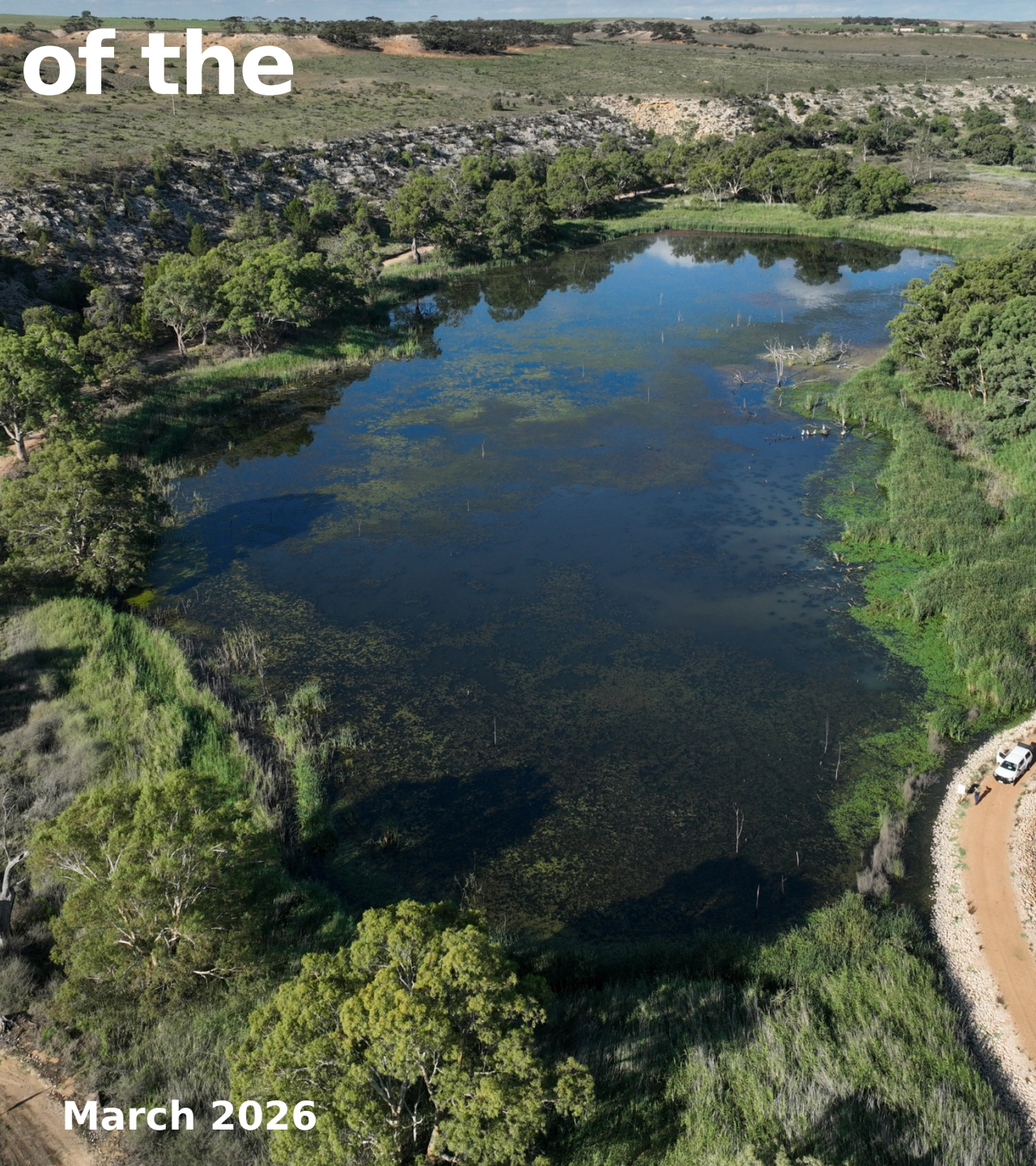
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**...When you get rid of the
carp**



June 2025

Photo and video: Amy Rice



March 2026

Provide Return Flows

Qualco 2025/26

Pumped wetland

River Murray



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WAV LANDSCAPE
SOUTH AUSTRALIA
MURRAYLANDS
AND RIVERLAND



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Monitoring and Investigations

...Understanding the system and knowing what's happening

1. Operational Validation Monitoring

Did it happen as we planned?

2. Ecological Response monitoring

What ecological conditions / trends / responses are we seeing?

3. Targeted Investigations

How does that cause-effect relationship actually work? Are our functional understandings and management assumptions correct?

