

Better modelling to inform decision-making



About the Reconnecting River Country Program

The Reconnecting River Country Program aims to achieve a balance of economic, social, cultural and environmental outcomes across southern NSW by improving wetland and floodplain connectivity.

The program focuses on relaxing or removing some of the constraints or physical barriers limiting the delivery of water for the environment across the southern-connected Murray–Darling Basin.

The program will potentially deliver important economic stimulus and benefits to regional economies in southern NSW. Importantly, it will also create healthier river systems providing generational benefits for local communities.



Murrumbidgee River near Collingullie

Interactive inundation mapping

In July 2022, the NSW Government released improved online inundation modelling for the program area.

These interactive maps show the estimated upper limits of inundation if there was a change in flow under several different options being considered by the program.

They have been developed using comprehensive hydraulic modelling, which was checked against satellite imagery and/or aerial photography collected during several recent natural high flow events (natural and dam release) in the Murray and Murrumbidgee valleys.

While still provisional, the modelling gives stakeholders a better understanding of the land likely to be inundated during higher flow events and demonstrates the likely benefits and implications different flow levels may have.

Two types of interactive maps are now available online, including:

- general maps showing estimated inundation for the program area down to a resolution seen at 180m
- property-scale maps for eligible landholders available through an application process
 - these property-scale maps include information such as property boundaries and infrastructure, aerial imagery and property-scale inundation
 - eligible landholders are provided a unique link allowing them to view and update assets across their property.

The new maps are a major improvement on the modelling used for previous constraints management projects and are the result of a significant investment by the Australian and NSW Governments.

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Their development involved an extensive data collection program providing high quality data inputs to model development and calibration, as well as desktop checking against available aerial photography and satellite imagery. Further work is required to ground truth and validate these provisional products in collaboration with stakeholders.

To view the maps, visit the program's [virtual room](#) and choose the 'interactive map' icon on the bottom left of the screen.

Online case studies

Landowners looking to access property-scale mapping can apply to be involved in an online case study.

Please visit the [virtual room](#) to register your interest. After registering your interest, a departmental representative will be in contact to discuss the process and next steps.

Inundation modelling webinar

View a recording of the program's [introduction to modelling webinar](#) held on 27 June 2022.



Reed Beds Bird Hide near Mathoura

Acknowledgement

The Department of Planning and Environment acknowledges we stand on Aboriginal land. We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land and show our respect for Elders past, present and emerging through thoughtful and collaborative approaches to our work, seeking to demonstrate our ongoing commitment to providing places in which Aboriginal people are included socially, culturally and economically.

Find out more

To find out more about upcoming consultation opportunities please contact us or get in touch with your local engagement officer.

- visit dpie.nsw.gov.au/reconnecting-river-country-program
- phone **1300 081 047**
- email winsw.engagement@dpie.nsw.gov.au
- sign up for [program updates](#)