



## About the Better Baaka Program

The NSW Government is investigating a range of measures for the Darling-Baaka River system as part of rescoping the Menindee Lakes project. These measures are part of a new Better Baaka program (the program).

Following the Murray-Darling Basin Ministerial Council meeting in April, Water Infrastructure NSW has rescoped the Menindee Lakes Sustainable Diversion Limits Adjustment Mechanism (SDLAM) project and investigated options that might be supported by the community.

Our focus over the past few months has been evaluating the years of community feedback regarding the need to improve connectivity, environmental, cultural and community outcomes.

We know these issues can only be addressed by taking a holistic, system-wide approach to water infrastructure planning and operations, working in tandem with changes in water policy and strategy. We also know that feedback from our stakeholders and communities is critical to ensuring we progress the best options for delivering outcomes.

We have recently launched a major consultation and engagement program which will enable us to work side-by-side with communities to investigate solutions to create a Better Baaka. This is a shift towards beneficial outcomes for communities and the environment.

The options are currently being investigated by the project team, most of which are in the very early stages of planning. Community feedback and input will play a crucial role in shaping which initiatives are progressed, and what these initiatives look like, to deliver a Better Baaka.

## About the proposed Weir Modification and Assessments initiative

The proposed Weir Modification and Assessments initiative (the proposal) aims to assess and identify modernisation opportunities for infrastructure, improve water management and reduce impacts on local habitat. A range of options are currently being assessed taking into account social, cultural, environmental and economic considerations.

The proposal includes three key components:

- review long-term options for non-town weirs
- improve fish passage
- reinstating rock bar habitat.

### Potential benefits

The proposal would improve native fish habitat and the overall health of the waterways by improving connectivity to over 2000 km between Wentworth and Mungindi when combined with other elements of the Better Baaka program. In addition, the project would:

- improve habitat at key tributary nursery and refuge sites in the lower reaches of the Narran, Bokhara and Bogan Rivers

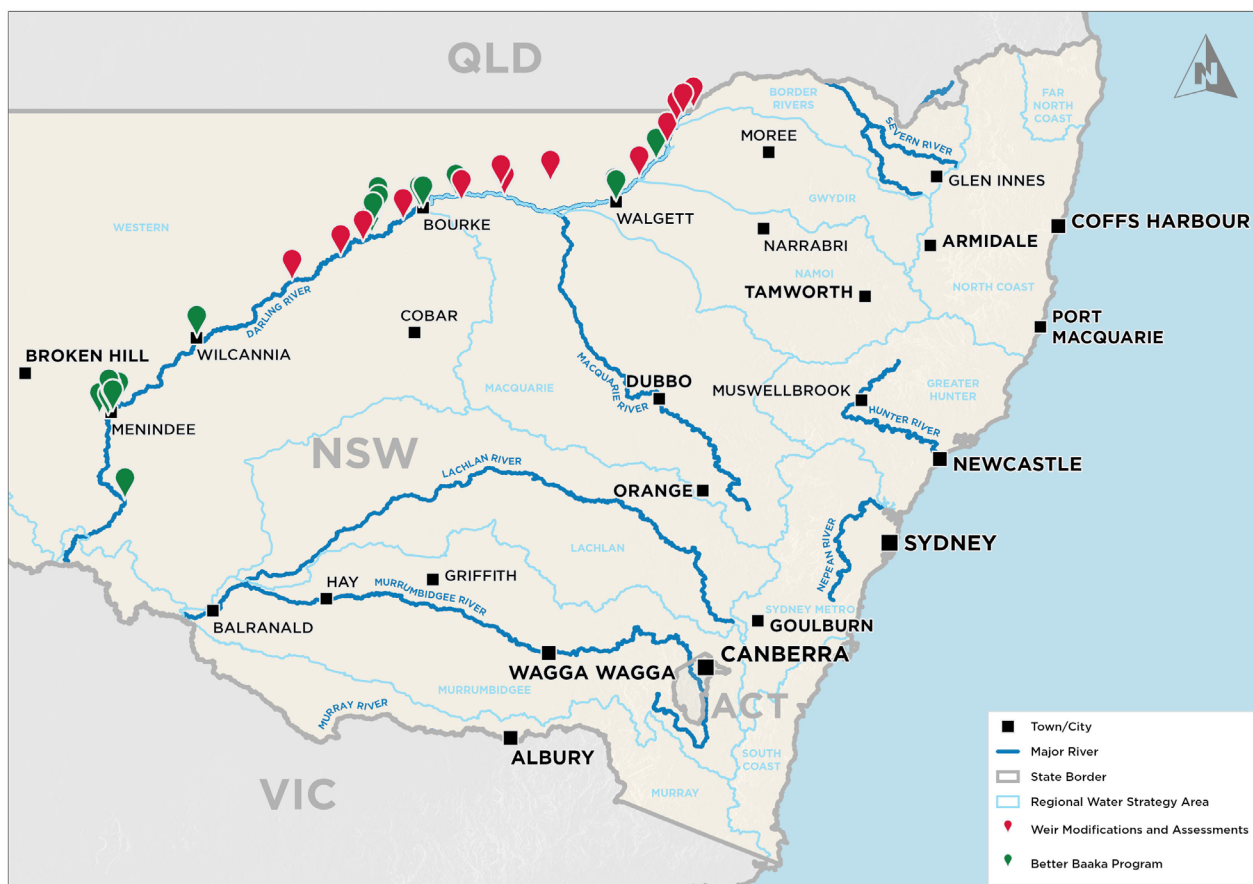
# Better Baaka Program

## Weir Modification and Assessments

- return diverse flow regimes and improved habitat providing positive fish and water quality outcomes.

### Initiative map

The locations for the proposed Weir Modifications and Assessments initiative are shown in the map below.



## Stakeholder engagement

Communities will be at the heart of the Better Baaka program. We are committed to working in partnership to develop the program to deliver outcomes with broad community support.

We will provide numerous opportunities for local communities and stakeholders to have their say on the design of the program and throughout the development and delivery phases of any projects. This feedback will be a key input into decision making and will help shape the program's future design.

# Better Baaka Program

## Weir Modification and Assessments



We are also keen to hear any alternative or additional ideas local communities may have to deliver economic, cultural and environmental outcomes for local communities and the environment across the Darling-Baaka river system.

In October 2021, we will commence talking to local communities on the proposed ideas making up the Better Baaka program. Upcoming engagement and partnering opportunities will be listed on the [Better Baaka webpage](#) and also on our [stakeholder engagement page](#).

### Engagement with First Nations people

We recognise and acknowledge the unique relationship and deep connection to country that First Nations people have as the Traditional Owners and First Peoples of Australia.

The wisdom and experience of First Nations communities will play a critical role in informing the development of initiatives and approach to the Better Baaka program.

We have a dedicated engagement team who will guide our engagement with these communities, and we look forward to working with them to deliver real, tangible and widely accepted outcomes.

### Find out more

For more information on the Better Baaka program:

- call 1300 081 047
- email our engagement team at [better.baaka@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:better.baaka@dpi.nsw.gov.au)
- visit [dpi.nsw.gov.au/better-baaka](https://dpi.nsw.gov.au/better-baaka)

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