

# Moorabool River Moorabull Yaluk



**Water for the environment** is carefully timed flows to give a helping hand to native plants and animals, including fish, frogs and platypus.

**Water for the environment,** together with other activities like weed removal, revegetation and removal of fish barriers, improves the health of the Moorabool River in many different ways:

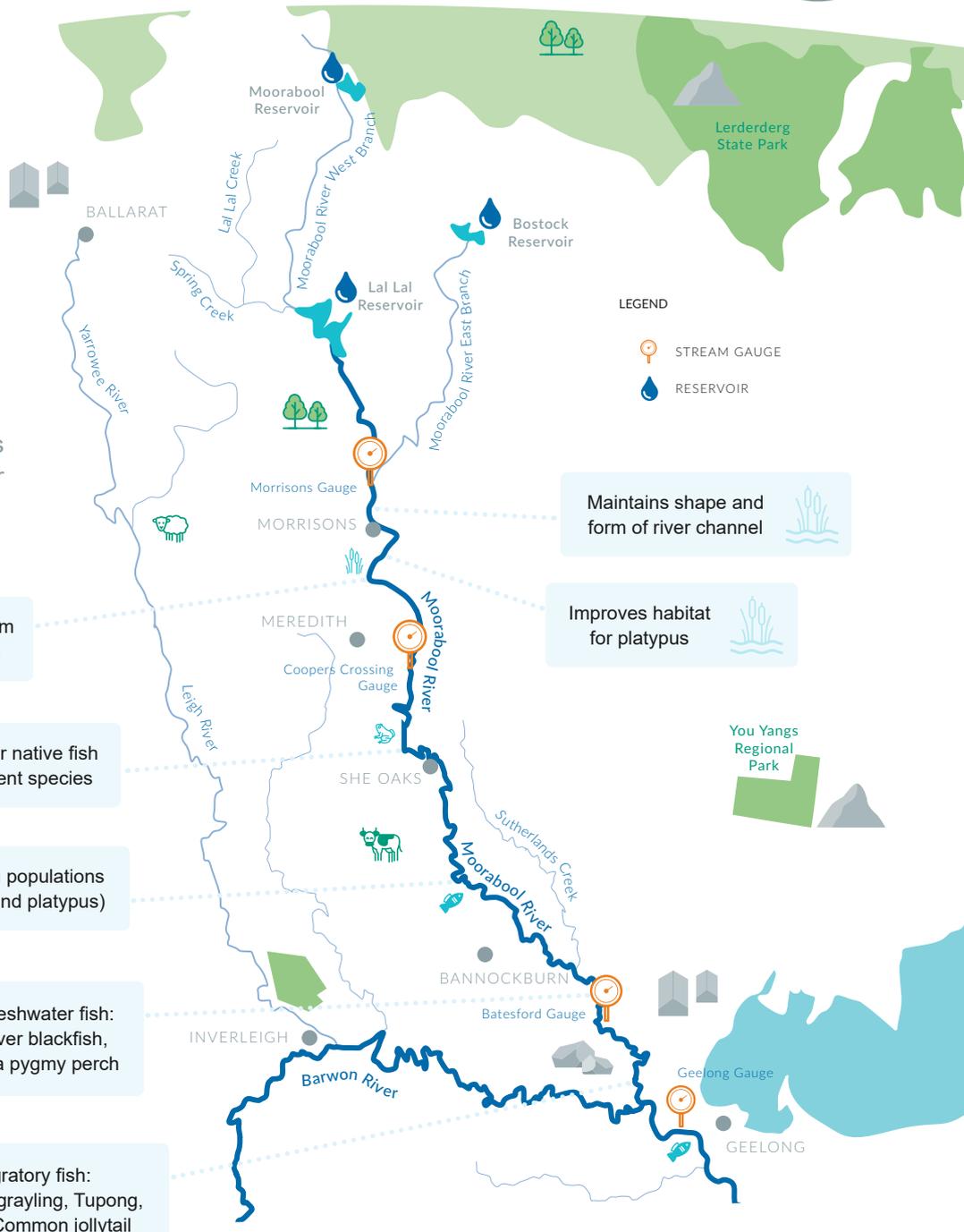
Maintains native in-stream and riparian vegetation

Improves water quality for native fish and other water-dependent species

Maintains waterbug populations (food for fish, frog and platypus)

Assists breeding of resident freshwater fish: Australian smelt, galaxias, River blackfish, Big-headed gudgeon and Yarra pygmy perch

Assists breeding of migratory fish: Short-finned eels, Australian grayling, Tupong, Broad-finned galaxias and Common jollytail



**LEGEND**

- STREAM GAUGE
- RESERVOIR

Maintains shape and form of river channel

Improves habitat for platypus

## The Moorabool River

### Moorabull Yaluk

The Moorabool River flows south from the Central Highlands between Ballarat and Ballan to join the Barwon River at Fyansford just north of Geelong.

The Moorabool River catchment is highly regulated with major storages that include Lal Lal, Moorabool and Bostock reservoirs. The river has high levels of extraction for urban use and has been recognised as one of the most flow stressed in Victoria.

The Moorabool River, *Moorabull Yaluk*, flows through Wadawurrung Country and has great cultural significance for Wadawurrung Traditional Owners.

### What is water for the environment?

Water for the environment is water in a river that is there for environmental benefit. This may be water naturally flowing in a river that is not extracted, or it may also be provided through an environmental water entitlement.

The Moorabool River Environmental Entitlement 2010, is held in Lal Lal Reservoir and is delivered by the Corangamite CMA on behalf of the Victorian Environmental Water Holder (VEWH). This water is released down the river in a targeted way to maximise environmental benefits.

Releases typically take the form of continuous low flow (base flow) or a fresh (pulse of water) to trigger a particular environmental response.

### Why does the river need water?

Healthy rivers are living ecosystems that provide a range of services we all benefit from, including nutrient cycling, water filtration, climate moderation and flood mitigation. Healthy rivers are also a home for birds, platypus, frogs and fish and are a place for people to recreate and enjoy too.

Water for the environment is crucial in maintaining ecological health in highly regulated and extracted systems. Water flow also helps to maintain channel form and prevent choke points.

### Flow planning

The current environmental entitlement only provides for a quarter of the Moorabool River's basic ecological needs, so the available water must be used very carefully. Each year the CCMA develop proposed watering actions with community and partners for submission to the Victorian Environmental Water Holder.

These watering actions are based on scientific advice (FLOWS studies) and delivered in priority order according to



The Moorabool River downstream of Batesford Weir.  
Photo: Corangamite CMA

### Water for the environment priorities in the Moorabool River

- 1 Low flows in the river throughout the year**  
e.g. to maintain connectivity and water quality.
- 2 Fresh releases (pulses of water) in Summer and Autumn**  
e.g. to allow down-stream spawning migration of adult fish, water fringing vegetation, flush pools and connect habitats.
- 3 Fresh releases (pulses of water) in Spring and Winter**  
e.g. to trigger down-stream spawning migration of adult fish and upstream return migration of juvenile fish, transport organic matter through the system and promote growth of native vegetation.

The current environmental entitlement can have most effect on the river reaches between Lal Lal Reservoir and She Oaks Weir, with diminishing benefit to the reaches downstream. Listed above are the priorities for delivery from highest to lowest. There is insufficient water in the current entitlement to deliver them all, however they are all important.

water availability. The current year's Seasonal Watering Proposal can be found on the CCMA website at [ccma.vic.gov.au](http://ccma.vic.gov.au).

The website also allows you to explore a map of the Moorabool River and see what flows are coming down the system, current and planned environmental releases and other water parameters.

### Community engagement

Engagement is primarily conducted through the Moorabool Stakeholder Advisory Committee (MSAC).

MSAC Members include; Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation,

Geelong Landcare Network, individual Landholders, Environment Victoria, People for a Living Moorabool (PALM), Adelaide Brighton Cement Co, Waterwatch volunteers, Southern Rural Water, Central Highlands Water, Barwon Water, Golden Plains Shire, the Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning (DELWP), Parks Victoria, and the Victorian Environmental Water Holder (VEWH).

### Further information

Visit [ccma.vic.gov.au](http://ccma.vic.gov.au)  
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cared for by thriving communities*