

The Sustainable Diversion Limit Adjustment Mechanism

The Sustainable Diversion Limit Adjustment Mechanism (SDLAM) is a program designed to achieve similar or improved environmental outcomes for rivers, wetlands and wildlife using less water. Part of the Murray-Darling Basin Plan (Basin Plan), SDLAM can be achieved through supply measures, including constraints, or efficiency measures.

In 2017, the Basin states and the Australian Government agreed a package of 36 SDLAM projects across the southern connected Murray-Darling Basin, which aim to recover 605 GL of water each year for the river system.

Of these, the NSW Government is the lead or co-proponent for 21 projects. These projects are being delivered in collaboration with local communities and key stakeholders, including other Basin states, with funding from the Australian Government.

The SDLAM Acceleration Program

To date, 12 of NSW Government's SDLAM projects are complete or nearly complete and are delivering Basin Plan outcomes. The water recovered through these projects is already having positive impacts for Basin communities.

Building on this progress, the NSW Government is proposing to bring forward \$320 million worth of its remaining SDLAM projects through the NSW SDLAM Acceleration Program (the Acceleration Program). This program will remove barriers and streamline construction funding arrangements to allow the delivery of five projects by June 2024.

The projects being accelerated include the:

- Sustainable Diversion Limit offsets in the Lower Murray: Locks 8 & 9 Project
- Yanco Creek Modernisation Project (Modernising Supply Systems for Effluent Creeks Project)
- Murrumbidgee & Murray National Park Project
- Koondrook-Perricoota Flow Enabling Works Project
- Mid-Murray Anabranes Constraints Demonstration Reach Project.

This Acceleration Program will deliver up to 45 GL of the remaining water savings needed to reach the 605 GL target required by the Basin Plan each year, delivering strong ecological outcomes for the Murray-Darling Basin.

These proposed projects will also play a key role in creating jobs in regional areas, generating an estimated 450 direct and 850 indirect regional jobs, and will provide a much-needed boost to the regional economies where the projects are being delivered.

About the Mid-Murray Anabranes Project

The Mid-Murray Anabranes Project is one of the projects brought forward through the SDLAM Acceleration Program.

It aims to improve the connectivity and function of creek systems between the Murray River and its main anabranch, the Edward-Kooley.

The project will help restore the health of the creek systems and the recovery of native fish populations by improving the flow regimes and removing barriers to fish movement.

Mid-Murray Anabranches Project

The needs of landholders along the creeks will be supported by replacing low-level creek crossings with clear-span bridges, installing new rock crossings, and upgrading flood levees, fence crossings and access roads.

Project timelines

The project is currently in the concept phase. By accelerating this package of works it is anticipated the project will be complete by mid-2024.

Benefits

The project will improve native fish habitats and the overall health of the creek systems and the Murray River. The project is a significant investment in infrastructure which will have flow-on benefits for communities and businesses as the region is a popular holiday and recreational fishing destination.

Consultation

The NSW Government will work collaboratively with local landholders and communities to ensure the project benefits the community, industry, environment.

Stakeholders will have the opportunity at various stages of the project to provide comments and feedback on the proposed approach to ensure issues are identified and the best outcome is achieved.

More information

For more information on the SDLAM Acceleration Program call 1300 081 047 or visit dpie.nsw.gov.au/sdlam

[Subscribe for updates](#) on the SDLAM program

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