



Department of
Primary Industries

Native Fish Drought Response 2019/20



NSW Native Fish Drought Response

- Ongoing concerns for fish deaths as dry and very low flow conditions persist across most of the NSW Murray-Darling Basin
- Native fish species, such as the iconic Murray Cod and Golden Perch, provide a strong social and cultural connection for communities
- There are a number of fish populations, including threatened species, across the state that are key to the long-term recovery of fish communities



Fish of the Namoi



- 16 native fish species
- High diversity, dominated by Bony Herring and Carp Gudgeon
- Loss or reduction in numbers of key species
 - Silver Perch, Southern Purple Spotted Gudgeon and Olive Perchlet

What is the Government doing?

- Government has committed \$10 million towards these strategic actions over the summer, which also includes
 - Breeding programs for species like Murray Cod and Golden Perch
 - Expansion of Narrandera Fisheries Centre
 - increased stocking efforts when conditions improve under fish stocking permits



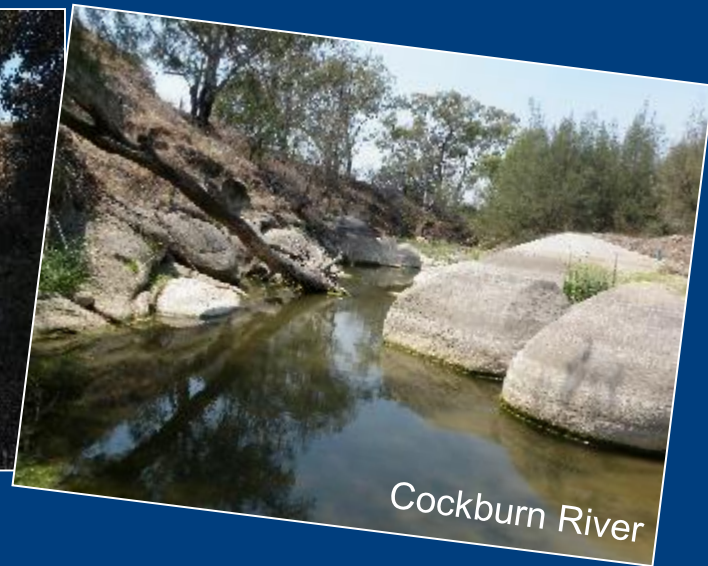
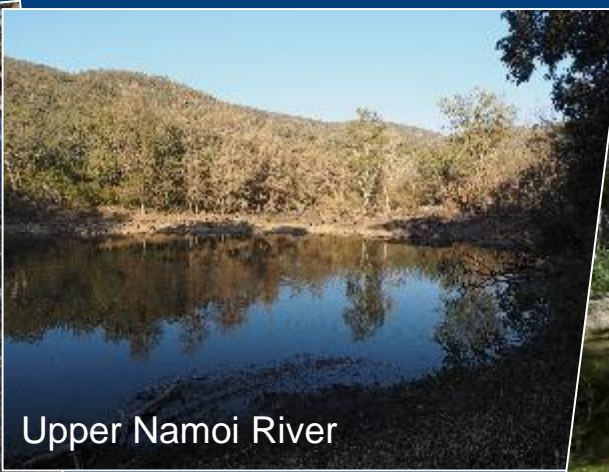
What is the Government doing?

- Formed Valley-based Technical Advisory Groups
 - use local knowledge from government and community
 - identify and assess priority refuge sites
 - make recommendations for action, including
 - Water management where possible and when flows return
 - Fish rescues with community and hatcheries
 - Monitoring and improving water quality through artificial aeration and mixing



Refugia in the Namoi

- Over 270 refuge sites identified; 85 shortlisted and 70 assessed so far
- Only 24 of the sites assessed are expected to provide refuge for fish beyond summer



Fish rescues in the Namoi

- Some coordinated rescues planned across the Namoi valley under permit and in consultation with Fisheries
- Key consideration is the availability and capacity of suitable places to put fish
 - Moving fish from pool to pool not preferred as places more stress on rescued fish, as well as the existing fish in receiving pools
 - Working with hatcheries to house fish and return when conditions improve



What can you do?

- Report Fish Kills and observations to us on the **Fishers Watch Phonenumber 1800 043 536**
 - Be on the lookout for changes to water quality
 - Watch for fish displaying unusual behaviour (gasping at the surface, etc.)
 - Report fish kills
- Expressions of interest from community to assist with further potential rescue efforts
 - fish.rescues@dpi.nsw.gov.au
- DPI Fisheries Facebook page or website for updates
www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/habitat/threats/nsw-native-fish-drought-response-2019-2020

