

Carrs, Carpitts and Bunberoo Creeks system connectivity

As part of the sustainable diversion limit offsets in the Lower Murray of New South Wales (NSW), the department proposes to replace existing weirs with regulators and fishways. This will allow flows to increase from Frenchmans Creek and the Murray River into the Carrs, Carpitts and Bunberoo Creeks (CCB) system. This is one of three measures of work, as part of a package, that aims to restore and enhance river habitat in the Lower Murray region of NSW.

CCB system connectivity

The Murray River, Frenchmans Creek and the CCB creek system are interconnected. Under natural processes, the CCB creek system would flood almost yearly. Since the construction of weir 9, flows have been prevented from reaching the CCB creeks, isolating the creeks and reducing natural flood events. As a result, the CCB system has seen significant water depletion.

Project benefits and details

This project proposes to replace existing weirs with regulators and fishways. This will allow flows to increase from Frenchmans Creek and the Murray River into the CCB creek system for positive ecological and environmental outcomes. These outcomes include:

- encouraging natural fish populations to breed by providing spawning and nursery areas
- supporting bird breeding
- restoring habitat and food resources.

More specifically, the project proposes the following works:

- Replacement of Carrs 1 and 2 fixed weirs with new structures encompassing regulators with overshot gates and vertical slot fishways
- Two block banks requiring installation of gated, reinforced concrete box culverts (RCBCs)
- Five road crossings requiring RCBCs to provide flow continuity and maintain vehicle access.

There will be limited demand on environmental water, as any additional flows down the creeks will be largely offset by reductions in flows over weir 9. This reduction is part of the locks 8 & 9 weir pool manipulation project.