



The Hon. James Griffin MP
Minister for Environment and Heritage

MD23/360

Ms Shelley Scoullar
Chair
Speak Up Campaign

By email: speakup4water@gmail.com

Dear Ms Scoullar

Shelley,

Thank you for your correspondence regarding environmental water management, flooding and carp populations.

I am advised the recent flooding across the Murray Darling Basin has generally provided wide-scale ecological benefits to riverine floodplains and wetlands. Breeding opportunities have increased for a range of native species, including fish and waterbirds.

While the flooding has been associated with carp recruitment, the ecological benefits of the flooding across the Basin outweigh the negative impacts of a temporary increase in carp numbers.

The NSW Government is working with the Australian Government and local communities on a number of initiatives under the Murray Darling Basin Plan, to help improve the connectivity of floodplains and wetlands.

In the NSW Murray River system, the Reconnecting River Country Program is focusing on how to overcome physical, policy and operational constraints that currently limit the flow of river systems. I am advised the extensive areas that recently flooded in the Murray and Murrumbidgee far exceed the area of inundation that would be achieved under the Program's proposed flow scenarios with environmental water allocations. It is therefore highly unlikely that the scale of carp recruitment observed during the recent flooding events will be replicated under managed events.

As the management of invasive fish species falls within the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for Agriculture, the Hon Dugald Saunders MP, in his capacity administering the Fisheries Management Act 1994 and Biosecurity Act 2015, your correspondence has been referred for his consideration.

If you have any further questions about this matter, please contact Mr Adam Vey, Director South West, Biodiversity and Conservation Division, Department of Planning and Environment at adam.vey@environment.nsw.gov.au or on 0419 185 506.

Yours sincerely

James Griffin MP
Minister for Environment and Heritage

cc: The Hon Dugald Saunders MP, Minister for Agriculture and Western New South Wales

22/2/23