



DEWFISH

DEMONSTRATION REACH

BREWARRINA TO BOURKE CONTINUED

Preliminary results from fish monitoring have indicated native fish are beginning to respond favourably to the interventions within the demonstration reach and in particular, are using reinstated structural woody habitat at the resnagging sites.

An important part of the project has been the involvement of a variety of stakeholders including landholders, local government, communities, schools and other state government organisations to implement on-ground works and community awareness activities. Those managing the demonstration reach believe that through education and involvement, the community will be able to better manage the health of the riverine environment and native fish populations beyond the project timeframe.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The project is a collaborative agreement between the Western Catchment Management Authority and the Conservation Action Unit of NSW Department of Primary Industries, with additional funding from the Murray–Darling Basin Authority, NSW Environmental Trust, NSW Recreational Fishing Trusts and State Water Corporation.

Photos throughout these pages supplied courtesy of the demonstration reaches.

The Dewfish Demonstration Reach stretches for more than 110 kilometres and has fast become the flagship project for the Condamine River Rescue program led by natural resource management group Condamine Alliance. Strong community and industry partnerships have also attracted additional funding which has helped to achieve the project’s aims.

One of the major project outcomes has been an upgrade to the Loudoun Weir fishway which has improved fish passage by up to 150 kilometres and resulted in the return of three native fish species not seen in the catchment for up to 15 years, including Moonfish in Myall Creek. Other project results include:

- increased numbers of Golden Perch, Bony Bream and Eel-tailed Catfish have also been recorded in high intervention areas,
- installation of snags, logjams and lunkers at five sections,
- revegetation of riparian areas with more than 5000 native trees and plants,
- off-stream watering points erected on five sections of Oakey Creek,
- removal of more than 800 kilograms of pest fish,
- extensive biodiversity surveys of Myall Creek, Loudoun Weir Pool and Oakey Creek.

“This project is the best thing that has ever happened to Oakey Creek...there is no way we could have recovered this area without the help of Condamine Alliance.”

Noal Kuhl (pictured),
Oakey Freshwater Fish
Stocking Association



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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