



NAMOI

DEMONSTRATION REACH

KATFISH CONTINUED

Funding has been secured through the Murray Futures Riverine Recovery Project to implement part of the project plan which includes:

- replacing six major in-stream barriers to improve water flow management and fish passage through the Katarapko and Eckert creeks,
- developing an integrated hydrological plan,
- further monitoring,
- securing the current Murray Hardyhead native fish population at the Berri Saline Water Disposal Basin,
- restoring the Katarapko Island Saline Water Disposal Basin.

“Katfish Reach has been a very rewarding project, bringing together the community and government to conserving and improving our natural environment.”

Kevin Smith, Chairperson,
Katfish Reach Steering Committee



As part of the Katfish project, the hydrology of the Berri Saline Disposal Basin will be managed to secure the current native fish population of Murray Hardyhead. Photo Michael Hammer.

The Namoi Demonstration Reach was established in 2007 as part of the Namoi Aquatic Habitat Initiative, which recognised native fish populations and river health had significantly declined in the Namoi catchment. Since the project started, a range of on-ground activities has been completed including:

- reintroducing 300 snags at priority sites,
- replanting 5700 aquatic plants at priority sites,
- planting of more than 9000 native trees and shrubs,
- completing 33.5 kilometres of woody weed management,
- completing 33.5 kilometres of riparian fencing,
- installing 20 off-stream watering points,
- constructing eight in-stream and gully erosion protection works.

The Namoi Demonstration Reach has achieved significant community ownership of the river. Strong partnerships have been forged with more than 25 stakeholder groups, including federal, state and local government, community groups, local landholders, businesses and schools. Community engagement has involved workshops with recreational fishers, Aboriginal communities, and landholders, through to environmental education days and carp muster events.

The change in community attitude towards the demonstration reach and the benefits to native fish has also been encouraging. Local community members and landholders who have lived on the river all their life are now showing an interest in the innovative solutions to aquatic and riparian health issues, including resnagging activities.

Local fishers are also benefiting from the resnagging works, with anecdotal evidence and observations indicating Murray Cod and Golden Perch are occupying the newly created habitats in the Namoi River.

“Having the river fenced off makes life that much easier. We can control stock access and will have a more reliable water supply. We are also controlling the willows and planting native trees along the river, so it’s a win-win situation. Not only do we benefit but it’s good for the health of the river and the fish.”

Tim Tapscott, East Bresrow, Boggabri, New South Wales

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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