

Living Basin – Living Murray – Native Fish Opportunities for secondary teachers in teaching about the Murray-Darling Basin’s land and water resources

Adrian Wells and Jo Haw, Murray Darling Association

There are two programs that secondary teachers will be interested in when working with students to look at the future of the Murray Darling Basin. These are *The Living Murray* and the *Native Fish Strategy*.

The Murray Darling Association can provide:-

- facilitation services for student forums and workshops in the classroom or a cluster group of schools,
- arrange and coordinate field trips to **Icon Sites**,
- liaise with other agencies to provide the right speakers for tours and workshops, and
- provide an unbiased view on issues relating to the Murray Darling Basin.

THE LIVING MURRAY

Since 1900, as the Murray River has become highly regulated with storages, weirs and five barrages, the ecology of the river system has changed significantly. Water quality has deteriorated, some wetlands have dried up, some are permanently under water. Native fish numbers have declined, river red gums are stressed through unnaturally dry or flooded conditions, some areas of land have become affected by salt. As the river has become less healthy, it has impacted on recreation, tourism, cultural and spiritual values.

The Living Murray offers a way for students to explore finding a balance between social, economic and environmental use of water as well as integrated and long-term approaches to managing natural resources along Australia’s most significant waterway.

For information on possible workshops, forums or tours, please contact Ms Jo Haw of the Murray Darling Association on 0427 376 157.

For material about *The Living Murray*:

www.thelivingmurray.mdbc.gov.au

Email – thelivingmurray@mdbc.gov.au

Phone: 02 6279 0100

NATIVE FISH STRATEGY

In 2004, the Murray-Darling Basin Ministerial Council released a strategy for the future of native fish management within the Murray-Darling Basin. The *Native Fish Strategy* is a response to key threats to native fish in the Murray-Darling Basin. These include river regulation; degradation of fish habitats; declining water quality; barriers to fish movement passage from dams, weirs and crossings; alien fish species such as carp; fisheries exploitation; spread of disease; translocation and unco-ordinated stocking of fish.

The Native Fish Strategy offers a way for students to look at long-term approaches to managing natural resources as well as the importance of science and community engagement.

For information on possible workshops, forums or tours about native fish or managing alien fish, please contact Mr Adrian Wells of the Murray Darling Association on 02 6021 3655.

There is also a lot of information about the *Native Fish Strategy* (documents, posters, brochures, stickers and fact sheets) from the Murray Darling Commission:

www.mdbc.gov.au

Phone – 02 6279 0100