



Australian Government



Demonstration Reaches – Progress to Date

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Demonstration Reach Concept

- To show by example the benefits of addressing a suite of threats to native fishes in a river reach whilst engaging the community to increase awareness and develop stewardship/ownership.
- A key target of the NFS is to establish and rehabilitate one demonstration reach in each jurisdiction by 2010.

Demonstration Reach Concept -Criteria

- community support;
- visible to public, accessible and substantial;
- affected by a number of threats;
- degraded but fixable;
- able to provide examples of solutions to problems;

Demonstration Reach Concept - Criteria

- Results transferable;
- Permit testing of scientific hypotheses;
- Contain or have potential for diverse fish fauna;
- Substantial size (e.g. 20 – 100km);
- Treated over a sufficient time period (e.g. 7-10 years).

Early Days

- Planning for Demonstration Reaches commenced in each state (apart from ACT) in 2005.
- Funding commenced in 2006/2007 financial year.
- Maximum of \$100,000 per annum to each state (apart from ACT).
- For planning, community engagement, on-ground works and monitoring.

Workshop -2006

- Reinforce concept, discuss progress and way forward.
- Encouraged indigenous engagement.
- “Badge” Demo Reaches as compatible with “River Health”.
- Scale to allow meaningful monitoring of target species.

2007 Report

- Eight Demo Reaches (NSW 2, Vic 3, SA 1, Qld 2).
- Significant Community support and partnerships.
- Need for robust monitoring.
- Application of testable hypothesis.
- Whole of Life Plans.
- Basis for costing interventions.

2008 Initiatives

- Development of M&E Framework (Boys *et al* 2008).
- Additional \$100,000 p.a. for 4 jurisdictions for monitoring.
- Clarification of Demonstration Reach definition:
 - - “Demonstration Reach” – Monitoring.
 - - “Rehabilitation Reach” – No or limited monitoring.

Demonstration Reach Steering Committee

- Membership:
- -Peter Jackson (independent Scientist).
- -Melissa Morley (MDBA NFS)
- -Fern Hames (NFS Coordinator)
- -Phil Duncan (CSTF).
- -Craig Boys (Research Scientist).

Demonstration Reach Steering Committee-TORs

- Provide advice to MDBA and NFAP on the establishment of Demonstration and Rehabilitation Reaches across the Basin.
- Coordinate establishment ensuring a consistent approach, identify issues and recommend solutions.

2008/09 – additional projects

- Workshops held across the Basin to scope opportunities for increasing indigenous engagement in Demonstration Reaches (Phil Duncan's talk).
- Review of M&E Plans (Craig Boys' talk).

Contingency Funding

- Starting 2008/09 financial year, \$35,000 will be available for small projects that help progress the implementation of Demonstration Reaches.
- This year – possible workshop to discuss monitoring and community engagement across the Basin

Current situation

- Funds allocated to seven Demo Reaches:
- -South Australia –Katarapko Creek (Katfish Reach).
- NSW -Namoi Reach and Brewarrina to Bourke Reach.
- Vic – Hollands Creek and Ovens River.
- Qld – Dalby Reach (Dewfish Reach) and Border Rivers.

Current Situation

- Apart from Border Rivers all have:
 - - Whole of Life Plans;
 - - M&E Plans;
 - - Communication –Community engagement plans;
- On-ground works.
- (Border Rivers will submit Whole of Life Plan in 2009/10).

Summary

- Each state has at least one Demonstration Reach (ACT should have one in 2010).
- M&E plans will ensure rigorous monitoring (results not for several years).
- Community engagement and the development of partnerships has been good.
- Results to date thanks to NRM/CMA groups and NFS coordinators.



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