



Industry &
Investment

„Talking Fish“- making connections with the rivers of the Murray-Darling Basin

MDBA Contract MD1489

**“Collecting oral histories and engaging
recreational fishers within the Basin”**

Scott Nichols, I&I NSW Conservation Action Unit

Heather Goodall, University Technology Sydney

“Talking Fish” in the MDB

AIM:

Engage recreational fishers & encourage involvement in restoring fish and fish habitat



“Talking Fish” in the MDB

ADMINISTRATION:

- Joint project with NSW, QLD, Vic, SA (NSW Admin)



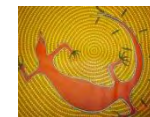
Department of
Sustainability and
Environment



- Oral Historians from University of Technology, Sydney (Heather Goodall, Jodi Frawley)



- The “Story Project” (QLD - Hamish Sewell)
- Aboriginal engagement (Phil Duncan)
- Link with NFS coordinators to identify potential interviewees



“Talking Fish” in the MDB

Ethics – extremely important



Consent

“Talking Fish” in the MDB

Use of information and outputs:

- Audio recordings in format for use on radio & web page



“Talking Fish” in the MDB

Use of information and outputs:



- Interviews transcribed into print format for use and archiving

“Talking Fish” in the MDB

Use of information and outputs:

- Booklets
 - links to data collected from the region (eg stories on how water quality changed, hopefully can be linked to data on water quality)



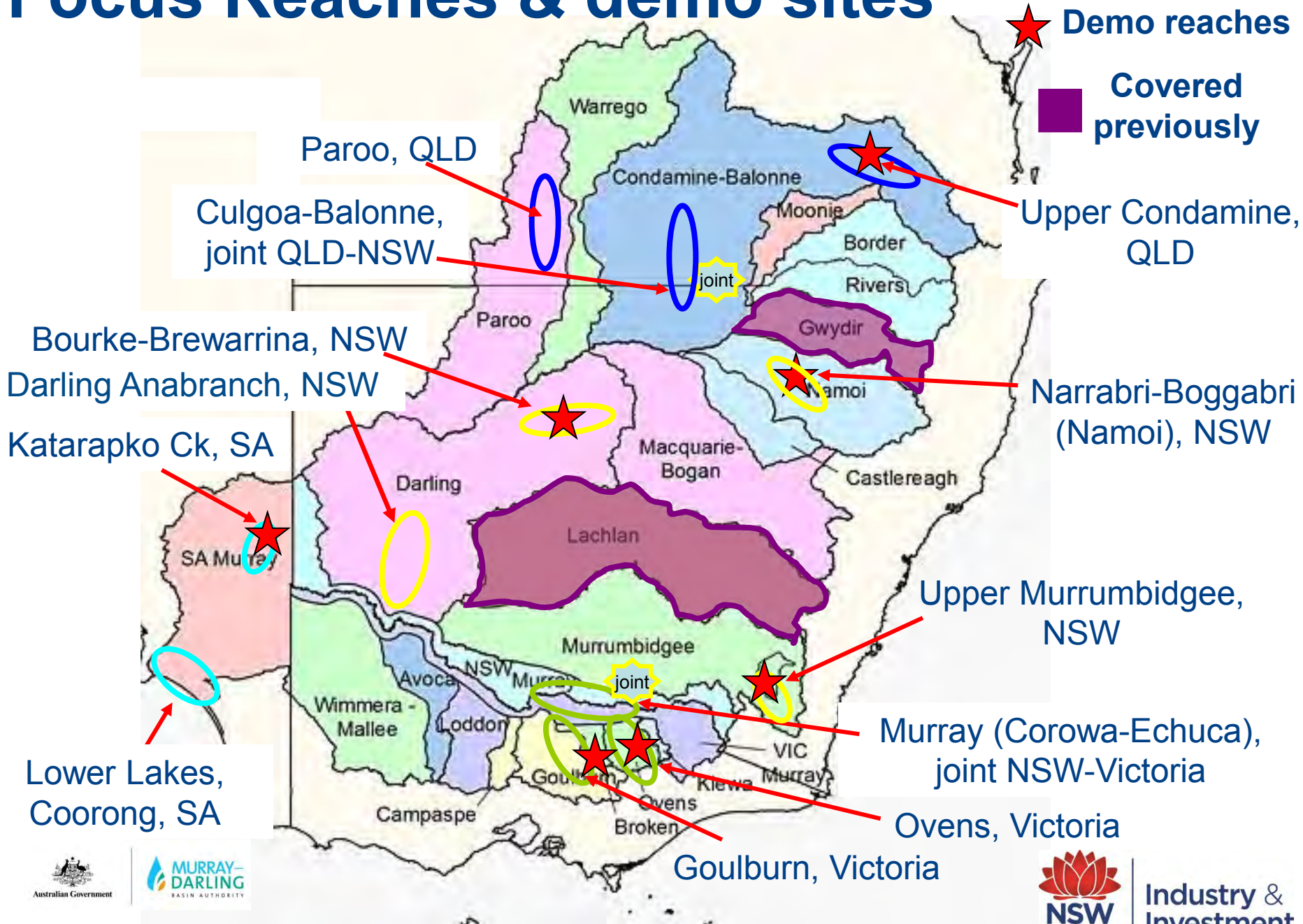
“Talking Fish” in the MDB

Use of information and outputs:

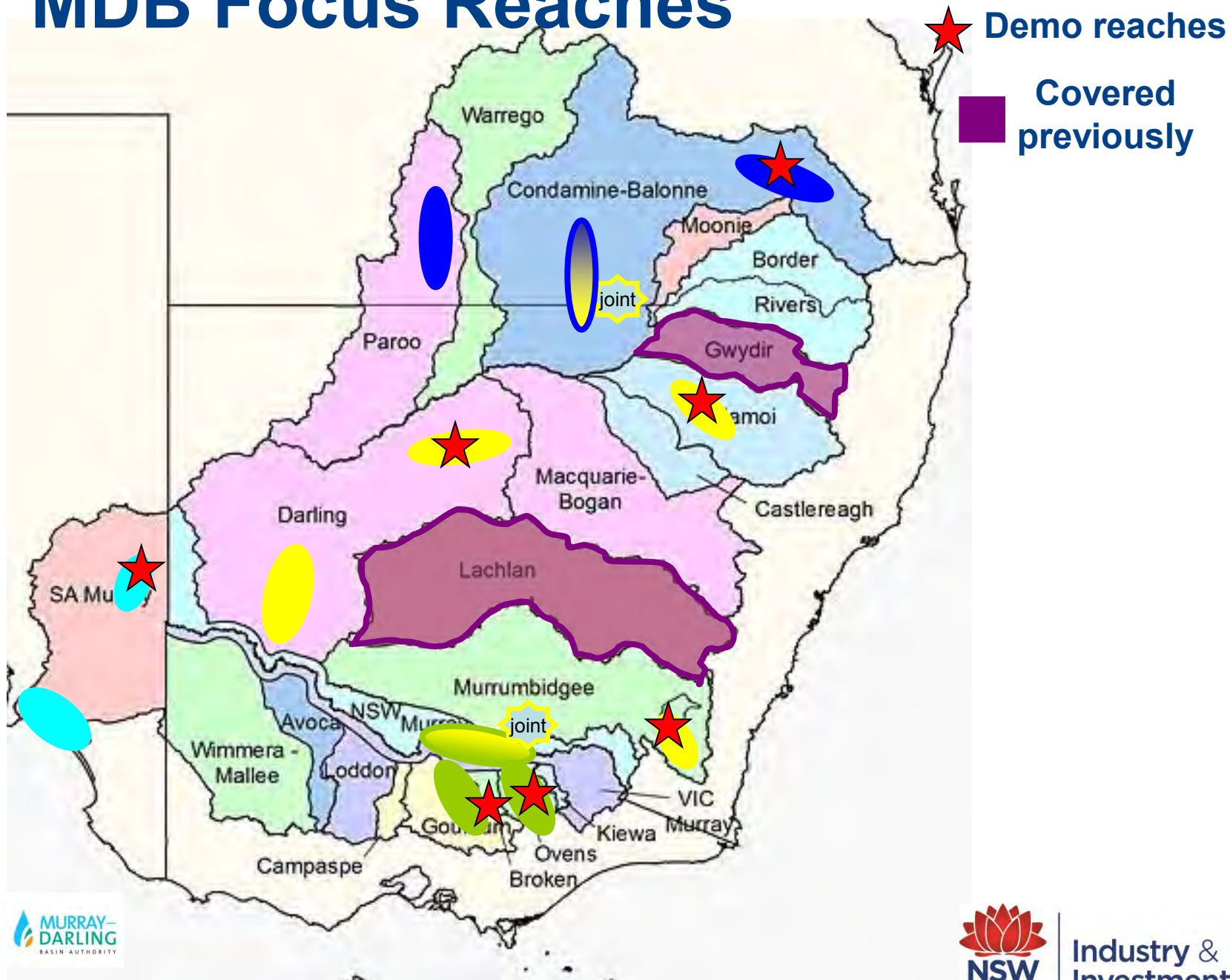
- Audio, transcripts, other information **ARCHIVED**
- Mitchell Library and UTS’ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Data Archive (publically available)



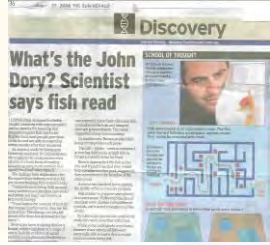
Focus Reaches & demo sites



MDB Focus Reaches



Outputs - Webpage



Doris Cozzello

1950s

We helped to build the swimming pool in Hillston and our son was a very good swimmer. But so far could practice, we used to have to go and weed a channel across the river, make the ribbon weed out so he could jump in and swim at his full pace. When he went to boarding school, he won open championships, so the time clearing the river wasn't wasted.

During floods or high rivers, we used to take photos, there would be islands of the duck

weed big enough to put two cars on, the islands of this weed floating down the river. We didn't take much notice until they weren't there. It really has changed very, very much.

(Doris Cozzello, Hillston 1994)

1953

We did some spinning in the river because there was a growth of a broad leaf type of seaweed on the edges of the river, not so much in the middle.

(Max Pitt, Lake Cargillie 1995)

1956

There was a fair regeneration of red gum after the 1956 flood.

(John Fasson, Hillston 1995)

EARLY 1960s

When I came here in 1961... to me the river was normal, it was always densely populated, if you like to use that word, with ribbon weed.

(Kevin Pitt, Lake Cargillie 1994)

1960s

Yes, we had to be very careful, particularly above the weir because the sheep didn't know the difference between the land and the water with the growth that was in the river. It just looked the same or a bit greater than the paddock, and the lambs particularly if they hadn't seen it before, they would be

STOCKING THE WARREN JACK DAMS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD.
 Sir,—A short time since a paragraph appeared in the Herald, re stocking the dams at Warren Jacks with mountain bair, or rock perch, etc. A request was sent to the Fisheries Department to take the matter in hand, and an expert was deputed to carry out the suggestion. This expert's idea was to capture bair in the reaches of the Lower Murrumbidgee, and transplant them to the said dam. Instead of so doing it will be far better to control the dams to be stocked by air with the bair that are in thousands above the dam. They are, precisely of the same species as will be obtained from the stretches of the same river lower down.
 The young bair that are in the waters above the dams will be sure to make for the deeper waters if it is their natural habit—the larger and deeper the waterholes in rivers the larger is the fish inhabitants.
 The writer has seen young perch and cod-bair in the Murrumbidgee and its tributaries near Cooma by the thousand. Then why take the trouble and go to the expense to take bair from one part of the river, and dump them down among the same species in another part of the same river. "Cooks to New-castle" again.
 The great flood that occurred two or three months ago in the upper parts of the Murrumbidgee gave ample proof that the cod-bair, etc. grow as large in the distal dam district as in the lower parts of the said river. Tons of these fish, weighing up to 80lb. or 90lb. were left to die on the mud flats for miles along the river banks. Such fish will be sure to find their way down to the Warren Jacks dam if they have not already done so.
 I am, Sir,
 YOURS FAITHFULLY,
 COOMA FISHERMAN.



Booklet



Industry & Investment

Booklets



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Recollections within each reach (commonalities, differences)

Recollections found across the Basin

Link recollections with empirical data

Provide a list of resources for people to get involved

Example from “Listening to the Lachlan”



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