

# Murray-Darling Healthy Rivers Program

The Murray-Darling Healthy Rivers project is a 12-month, \$105,000 project that will engage Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board staff to conduct extensive river and floodplain surveys, map weed infestations and guide on-ground control works.

## The project

The Murray-Darling Healthy Rivers Program (Healthy Rivers) will tackle priority sites between Blanchetown and Wellington, beginning in May 2022 and concluding in May 2023.

Healthy Rivers is a collaborative project delivered by the Murraylands Riverland Landscape Board on behalf of Mid-Murray Landcare SA with funding from the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water. The project will work in partnership with landholders, councils, First Nations communities, and volunteers.

## Healthy Rivers priority pest plant species

The project will control 5 priority species:

- *Nymphaea mexicana* (yellow water lily)
- Cacti species
- *Sagittaria platyphylla* (arrow head or Sagittaria)
- *Lycium ferocissimum* (African boxthorn)
- *Chrysanthemoides monilifera* (boneseed)

Weed control will be undertaken in a coordinated and targeted approach across the region and may include other declared species found during surveys. District Officers from the Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board will use best-practice control methods to achieve effective weed management.

## Community involvement in Healthy Rivers

Local landholders and community groups assisted in designing this project and will be involved in the on-ground weed control.

Tools and equipment will be available for loan to enable landholders and community groups to tackle priority species in their local area. Workshops equipping participants with identification and control skills will be run for communities throughout the project area.



Australian Government

Department of Climate Change, Energy,  
the Environment and Water







**Yellow water lily**  
(*Nymphaea mexicana*)

This aquatic perennial has bright green fleshy, oval-shaped leaves that float on the water's surface. It has bright yellow flowers that are about 10 centimetres wide with multiple petals. Yellow water lily spreads easily and can quickly take over wetlands and backwaters, restricting water flow and access by river users.



**Cacti**  
(*Opuntia* sp.)

*Opuntia* species generally have fleshy, succulent flat pads that are round, oblong or egg shaped. Most species have spines that can cause harm to animals and humans, and red-pink fruit that can be a fruit fly host. They are easily spread, growing from seed and re-sprouting from pieces of plant material.



**Sagittaria**  
(*Sagittaria platyphylla*)

Introduced from North America, outbreaks of this aquatic weed can reduce or change water flows, reduce water quality and restrict the movement of fish and other aquatic animals. The leaves of the plant are narrow oval shaped and flowers have three small white petals. *Sagittaria* reproduces by growing underwater stems.



**African boxthorn**  
(*Lycium ferocissimum*)

This large perennial shrub can grow up to 5 metres high and 3 metres wide, with branches ending in spines. It can easily form a dense thicket. Leaves are light green and fleshy, and flowers are approximately 1 cm in diameter and consist of five white petals with purple dots. The small round berries are an orange-red colour, ranging between 5 and 10 millimetres in diameter.



**Boneseed**  
(*Chrysanthemoides mollifera*)

An erect perennial shrub that poses a threat to native vegetation due to competition. Leaves are bright green, 3 to 8 centimetres long and waxy with a serrated edge.

The bright yellow flowers are daisy like, and fruits are dry berries 6-8 millimetres in diameter that turn from green, to black then white as they mature.

**For more information  
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This project is supported by the Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board through funding from the Australian Government under the Murray–Darling Basin Economic Development Program.