



Western Murray Land Improvement Group

Striking a Balance

27 Thule Street Barham NSW 2732

Enhancement Project Catalyst for Koondrook-Perricoota Vision

Western Murray Land Improvement Group (WMLIG) are facilitating a collaborative stakeholder group managing the Murray Local Land Services (MLLS) Pollack Wetland Enhancement Project. The project, currently in its third year, aims to maintain and improve the condition of the Pollack, a 700ha flora reserve in the Ramsar-listed Koondrook-Perricoota Forest (K-P forest). Set on the traditional Country of the Barapa people the Pollack is one of six icon sites in “The Living Murray” initiative selected for its environmental, cultural, and international significance. The project will improve native flora and fauna biodiversity, increase community environmental education, and cultural engagement.

The Pollack which has a large amount of archaeological evidence of Aboriginal occupation also holds significance as a water bird breeding area. Over the past six years, the area has been subject to consistent environmental watering and has seen the return of wildlife including small-bodied native fish and endangered water bird species. The rejuvenated habitat has become a refuge for wildlife in an otherwise barren landscape. WMLIG has coordinated stakeholder groups including MLLS, Forestry Corporation NSW, Moama Local Aboriginal Land Council, the Barapa Barapa people, and Murrakool Land for Wildlife performing revegetation works, pest control, and tours for community groups and school students.

The success of the enhancement project has also become a catalyst for a bottom-up community-led approach for the broader K-P forest. Since December 2020, WMLIG have run a community engagement process which resulted in 160 community members engaging in an introductory seminar, two field trips to the Pollack Lagoon and surrounding dry environmental sites, and a community visioning workshop. The process has highlighted key themes, and a common vision for the K-P forest is being finalised via a community survey. WMLIG are a Landcare group based in Barham, NSW. To learn more about the project visit www.westernmurraylig.org/the-pollack.