



## Murrumbidgee to Googong Water Transfer

### Maintaining flows in the Murrumbidgee River

With droughts tipped to be longer, drier and more frequent ACTEW Corporation is working to diversify the ACT region's sources of water.

The Murrumbidgee to Googong Water Transfer is one component of Water Security – Major Projects, a suite of water security infrastructure initiatives now being implemented by ACTEW to secure the region's water supply.

#### About the Murrumbidgee River

The Murrumbidgee River, an important river in the Murray-Darling Basin, runs some 1,600km and its catchment covers an area of approximately 74,000 square kilometres.

The Murrumbidgee Catchment supports a thriving natural ecosystem and a densely populated region of Australia. The river is home to a range of water plants, fish and aquatic life and also provides for significant economic and recreational activity.

The river supports agricultural activities including sheep and cattle grazing and crop cultivation.

Its natural amenity is enjoyed by many people with recreational uses including boating, fishing and walking.

Protecting the health of the river is vital in ensuring its ongoing viability for current and future generations.

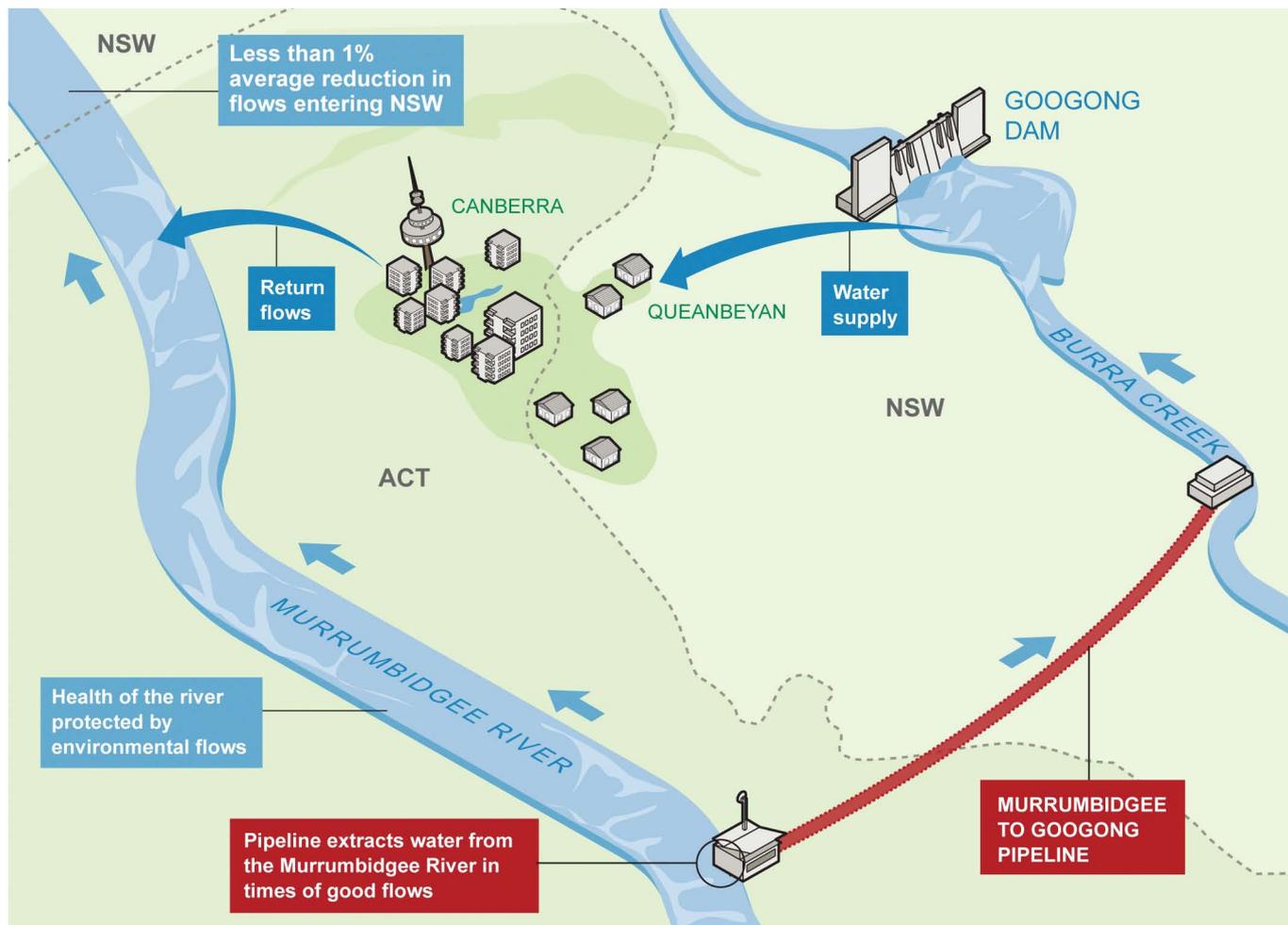


#### Environmental flows

The amount of flow in a river plays an essential part in ensuring a healthy natural ecosystem.

The level of flow in the Murrumbidgee River to maintain a healthy natural ecosystem is protected by government legislation.

Within the ACT, the Environmental Flows Guidelines established by the Water Resources Act 2007, set out the volumes and timings of environmental flows and abstraction limits in streams, rivers, lakes and aquifers.



The Murrumbidgee to Googong Water Transfer will extract water from the Murrumbidgee River only in times when river flows are above the required environmental flow level.

When the flow of the river is below the level required to maintain good river health ACTEW will not extract any natural flows. In this way the health of the river is protected.

### Extracting water

Pumping water from the Murrumbidgee River is subject to the ACT's 'Cap' on water use as determined in the Murray-Darling Basin Agreement. This determines the amount of water that is allowed to be diverted from the Murray-Darling Basin by states, territories and other users.

In times of good flows, the Murrumbidgee to Googong Water Transfer will extract up to 100 megalitres a day from the river at Angle Crossing in the ACT. This will not exceed the ACT Government's water 'Cap'.

Around 50 – 60 per cent of any flows extracted from the Murrumbidgee River for the ACT and region's water supply return to the river.

The project's net impact on average downstream flows out of the ACT is expected to be less than one per cent.