



Carmel Tebbutt MP

Deputy Premier

Minister for Climate Change and the Environment | Minister for Commerce

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Environmental water for Macquarie Marshes

The Macquarie Marshes wetlands are receiving its first environmental flow this year to improve the health of the wetland environment.

Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Carmel Tebbutt, announced today that a total of 19,000 megalitres of environmental water was being delivered to the Macquarie Marshes wetlands.

“Importantly this environmental water release will support the health of this significant wetland environment in the lead up to summer,” Ms Tebbutt said.

“In particular, it is expected that these flows will boost vegetation in the core areas of southern marshes, which have not been inundated for an extended period since 2006.

“Wetland vegetation, including water couch and reed beds is expected to benefit from the flows, which will provide critical habitat for wildlife.

“Without rain or inflows before summer the condition of the wetlands would continue to deteriorate. This flow will ensure that some parts of the wetlands in need of water receive valuable flows.”

Ms Tebbutt said that the water will be delivered to the wetlands at a low flow rate over the next three months to increase the ecological benefits through sustained wetting.

“As we face a hotter drier future, the way we manage wetlands has to adapt to these new conditions.

“By delivering water now and at a low rate we aim to gain the maximum benefit from a relatively small amount of water.”

This release of environmental water utilises water made available through water sharing arrangements as well as water purchased by the NSW Government under the RiverBank, Wetlands Recovery and Rivers Environmental Restoration programs.

“These programs have been jointly funded by the NSW and Commonwealth Governments through the NSW Environmental Trust and the Water Smart Australia Program,” Ms Tebbutt said.

“Since 2006 NSW RiverBank has acquired approximately 34,000 megalitres of water entitlement in the Macquarie valley, which has increased the available water for the Macquarie Marshes by some 20 per cent.

“This release demonstrates how water recovery by the government will support improved outcomes for the Macquarie Marshes and other wetlands within the Murray Darling Basin.”

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