

Submission on Draft Report – review of pest animal management

Individual Representation

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Stakeholder Category Retired farmer, Past Lowbidgee Advisory member

Do you want your submission to be confidential: No

What are your reasons for support of the submission.

Being a retired farmer and past River Advisory member (Lowbidgee), and having seen the Murrumbidgee River in near pristine 1930-condition, this lower end of the river from Hay to the Murray Junction can only be described as “sewer” conditions due to the introduction of noxious, filthy carp. The effect it has on native fish, crustaceans, bird life, and the general river conditions can only be described as dramatic, with townships and river properties affected by water turbidity. The bird life changed in lakes and creeks from swans and vegetative, to fish eaters, cormorants, and pelicans, etc.(a complete species change).

Carp fish destroyed the environmental nature of the Lowbidgee floodplain. Swamps and waterholes where natural water grasses and water lilies grew, and frogs laid their eggs and proliferated and with their predators, were lost. This, I have observed, having owned property in the Lowbidgee system.

What are your suggestions for improvement in pest animal management?

It is essential to introduce the CYHV-3 as soon as practicable as the damage and cost to the environment and money involved is enormous. The effect that dead and dying fish will have on the river environment and water quality will require careful planning in removal of the fish. I strongly believe that work should start immediately on the removal of dead trees that have fallen into the river and will collect dead fish in quantity with no possible hope of removal. (These impediments were the result of flood conditions following the ten-year drought especially between Hay and the Murray Junction.) These trees could be removed and converted into money as mill timber or firewood, providing employment for townships affected by the loss of timber industries in this region.

The dead or dying fish could be collected in strategic positions along the river by installing floating booms in pairs, and fish removed on collection. The River Water Authority would need to have water stored upstream to release at the appropriate time or intervals to provide faster river current. This action is necessary as the river flow in the lower Murrumbidgee lower end is extremely slow and would require faster flow to move the fish into the catching area. Once removed from the water, the quantity of fish would be required to be in the processing plants for some type of disposal, such as fertiliser on paddocks, in a liquid or chopped form. I have had the advantage of ploughing in dead carp stranded in a dried lake bed that later resulted in the growing of a magnificent cereal crop. As the CYHV-3 virus appears to be sudden death to the carp species, speed would be necessary to remove them from the water, and the organisation to handle and process this huge volume of fish would be essential to the project.

Any other comments:

It is essential that this project to remove the carp from our waterways be of the utmost importance and, knowing that there will be objections of all manner submitted to and against the project by minority groups then, if they cannot submit a better solution to the carp problem, their objections should be completely ignored.

If by chance, there is some effect to native fish species due to the process involved, the native fish stocks can be re-introduced after the removal of the noxious fish.

I feel that my comments to this Commission have credit and should be considered.

Do you wish to receive updates for this review? Yes

I have read and accept the Commissions Privacy Policy Yes