

Relevant targets in Basin EWS

<https://www.mdba.gov.au/sites/default/files/pubs/Basin-wide-e-watering-strategy-Nov14.pdf>

Appendix 3, Tables 4-5

Expected outcomes for water-dependent vegetation:

Vegetation targets for **Murray** region (from Wakool junction to downstream of Lock 3):

Maintain extent of water-dependent vegetation near river channels and on low-lying areas of the floodplain. Improve condition¹ of black box and river red gum.

Area of red gum = 90,600 ha, area of black box = 41,700 ha

Shrublands:

Lignum along the Murray River from the junction with the Wakool River to downstream of Lock 3, including Chowilla and Hattah Lakes

Non-woody water-dependent vegetation:

Closely fringing or occurring within the Murray, Edward, Kiewa, Mitta Mitta, Niemur and Wakool rivers and Tuppal Creek;

Ruppia tuberosa in the Coorong and *Moiria* grasslands in the Barmah– Millewa Forest

Reported results for **Murray** region

Condition of black box trees

Score 0-6	Score >6-10	% floodplain assessed ²
33%	65%	28%

Condition of river red gum trees³

Score 0-2	Score >2-4	Score >4-6	Score >6-8	Score >8-10	Area assessed
2%	1%	10%	51%	35%	51%

Basin-scale monitoring is reporting 65% of black box in good condition and 86% of red gums in good condition in the Murray region from the Wakool junction to downstream of Lock 3.

This is not supported by the MDBC reports of 2002 and 2004, with more than 75% of black box and red gum dead, dying or stressed from Gunbower to Mannum. It is not supported by observations at Water For Nature watering sites with mass deaths of mature trees, or by WFN monitoring reports of baseline condition in mature black box.

¹ Condition is scored from 0–10 and classified within five categories for river red gum and two categories for black box in the Lachlan, Murrumbidgee, Lower Darling, Goulburn–Broken and Wimmera–Avoca. As the data capture improves across the Basin, five categories of condition will be used across the Basin.

² Condition is scored from 0–10 and classified within five condition categories, being: 0–2 ‘severely degraded’; >2–4 ‘degraded’; >4–6 ‘poor’; >6–8 ‘moderate’; >8–10 ‘good’.

³ The area of vegetation where condition has been assessed is based on the existing extent of RapidEye™ imagery purchased for this assessment because Landsat 7 data were corrupted. In future, the condition assessment will be extended to include the total managed floodplain through the use of Landsat 8.