Restoring the Upper Murrumbidgee River Program

Funded by the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water

Annual Forum 2026

Program for the day

AGENDA

19 NOVEMBER 2026

ABOUT THE DAY

Thursday 19 November 2026, 9.30 am – 4.00 pm, Tharwa Hall, 10 North Street, Tharwa ACT. Join project partners, researchers, government, community groups and people who care about the river for a day of science, practical learning and connection across the upper Murrumbidgee catchment.

TIME	SESSION	PRESENTER
9.30 am	Registration and arrival	
WELCOME AND OPENING		
9.45 am	**Welcome and housekeeping**	**Ellen Samuels** MC, Communication Link
9.50 am	**Welcome to Country**	**Traditional Custodian representative**
THE PROGRAM AND THE BIGGER PICTURE		
10.00 am	**Setting the scene** Why the program exists and how its projects fit together	**Woo O'Reilly** ACT Government
10.15 am	**The broader flows context** How the program connects with wider river and flow initiatives	Australian Government
10.30 am	**Connecting across the catchment** An interactive activity to help understand how we can care for the catchment together	**Ellen Samuels** Facilitator
10.45 am	**Morning tea** *Networking and project displays*	
FIRST NATIONS PERSPECTIVES		
11.00 am	**Connection to Country, river stewardship and current work**	Koorimunication
SCIENCE AND MONITORING		
11.15 am	**Murray crayfish, habitat and flow**	**Bec Wood** NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
11.30 am	**Measuring river condition from the air**	**Will Higgisson** University of Canberra
11.45 am	**Algal blooms and water quality**	**Jordan Facey** University of Technology Sydney
12.00 pm	**The river food web**	**Simon Mitrovic and Zoe Bassett** University of Technology Sydney
12.15 pm	**Young Murray cod, habitat and flow**	**Matt Beitzel** ACT Government
12.30 pm	**Questions and discussion**	**Speaker panel**

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12.45 pm	**Lunch and Community Stewardship Grant project displays** *Meet the community groups delivering projects across the catchment*	
LEARNING FROM THE FIELD		
1.30 pm	**Naas and Gudgenby works**	**Lori Gould** Environmental Restoration Design & Planning
1.45 pm	**Mapping the shape of the river (video presentation)**	**Rod Tansley** Sandmap
2.00 pm	**Riversdale erosion works**	**Mark Eccleston** South East Local Land Services
2.15 pm	**Macquarie perch genetic rescue**	**Associate Professor Mark Lintermans**
2.30 pm	**Questions and discussion**	**Speaker panel**
2.45 pm	**Afternoon tea**	
COMMUNITY STEWARDSHIP		
3.05 pm	**Bird walk** Led by the Birds, Bush and Blackberries project, a Community Stewardship Grant project improving bird habitat along the Murrumbidgee River corridor. Bring a hat and comfortable shoes.	**Zohara Lucas** Southern ACT Catchment Group
LOOKING AHEAD		
3.35 pm	**Looking ahead together** What we've learned, where we can work together, and what each of us can contribute	**Ellen Samuels** Facilitator
3.50 pm	**Close** Key themes, thanks, next steps and how to stay involved	
4.00 pm	**Forum ends**	