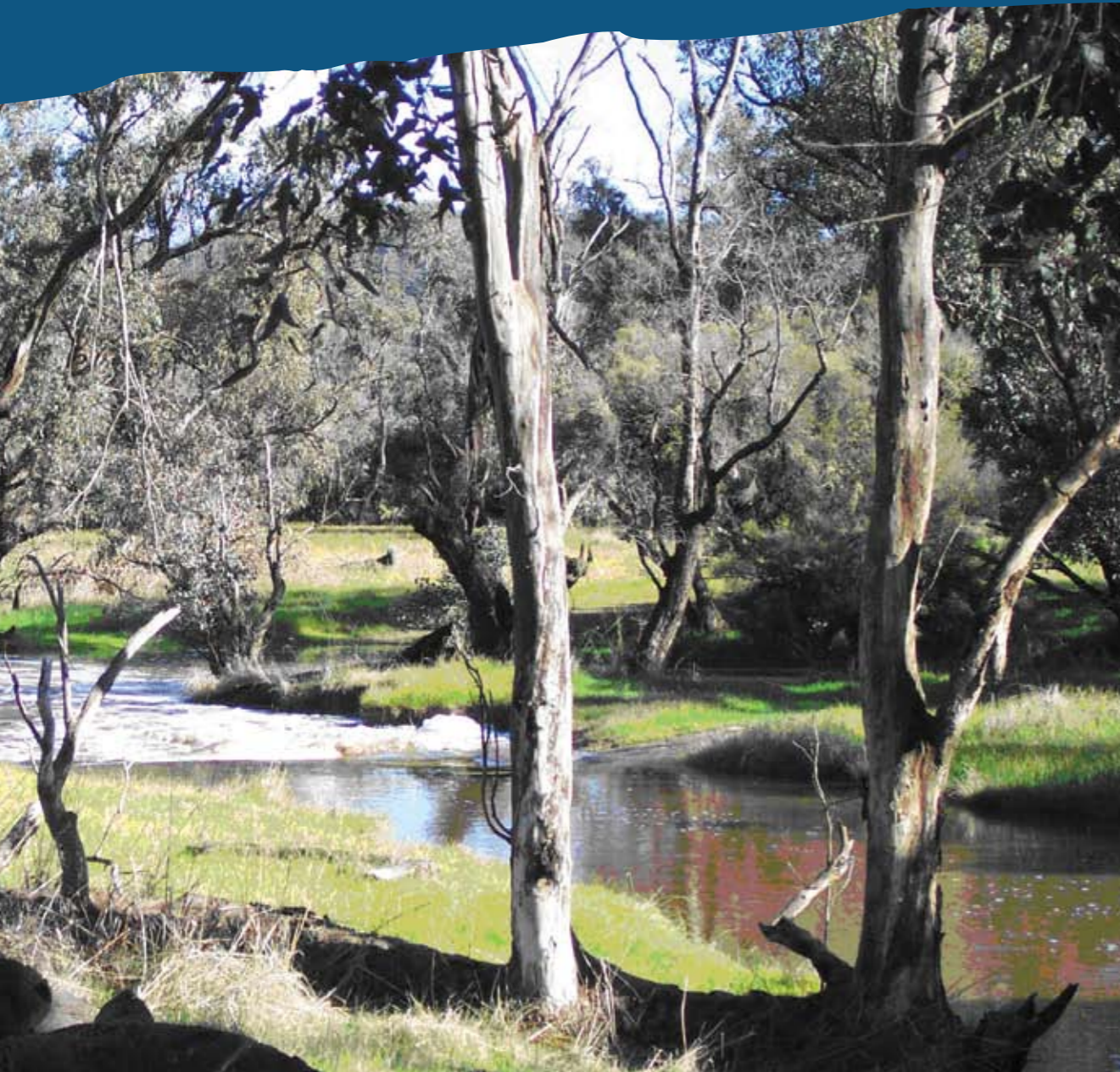


Hotham-Williams-Murray Rivers Salinity Recovery Projects

Project Proponent: Peel-Harvey Catchment Council
Location: Murray, Williams and Hotham River Catchments
Partnerships: Department of Water, South West Catchments Council, GHD
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Project Summary

The Salinity Recovery Project aims to determine the current status of the Hotham, Williams and Murray Rivers and their potential for salinity recovery. Anecdotally, the Hotham, Williams and Murray Rivers are thought to be impacted by land management practices that have resulted in escalating salinity concentrations in their surface waters. The project will establish the current salinity status of the rivers and determine likely sources of any increasing salinity. The project ultimately hopes to identify methods of mitigating the salinisation processes.

The Hotham-Williams-Murray Rivers have been identified as one of the most important catchments in the south west region for river salinity recovery. The Murray River alone contributes 60% of the total flow for the Peel-Harvey Estuary and represents the largest influence on this internationally-significant Estuary's ecology.

Specifically, the project will:

- Identify gaps in current data and knowledge;
- Collect baseline data and trends in salinity levels in the rivers and their tributaries;
- Investigate the installation of two gauging stations;
- Identify interim 'hotspot' tributaries; and,
- Prepare an interim situation report.