



MEDIA RELEASE

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LAKE POWELL COMES ALIVE AFTER WATER DELIVERY

An “unprecedented” bird breeding event is unfolding at Lakes Powell and Carpul, near Robinvale, signifying the health of the local wetlands.

Approximately 4,300ML of water for the environment was delivered to the lakes last year, with Mallee Catchment Management Authority (Mallee CMA) Board Chair Allison McTaggart noting the benefits were “almost immediate.”

“This was the first time since the 2022 floods that environmental water was delivered to these two particular sites, and the benefits have been so significant and really tell us a lot about the health of the waterways,” Ms McTaggart said.

“The presence of this amount of Red Water Milfoil alone says so much – it’s a really important species of aquatic vegetation in the Mallee, and now Lakes Powell and Carpul are absolutely bursting with it.

“This tells us that there is minimal carp in the lakes, and that both lakes are healthy and thriving, which is exactly what we want to see.”

Ms McTaggart said other indicators of the health of the lakes include the “significant amount of bird breeding activity” recently documented by Mallee CMA.

“Our team recently discovered a whole raft of different bird species breeding. There are Black Swan and Australasian Darter nests everywhere across the lakes – almost every single tree with a nest in it, had birds in it too,” she said.

“Hoary-headed Grebes, Australasian Darters, Great and Pied Cormorant numbers were extremely high, and it’s so significant to see these lakes teeming with baby birds settling into their new home.

“Without the environmental water delivery, these lakes would be a completely unsuitable environment for these birds now, as it would be completely dry and desolate. The benefits are huge, and the proof is in the pudding – we’ve never seen bird breeding events or aquatic vegetation thriving quite like this at these sites before.

“Thanks to the delivery of water, Lakes Powell and Carpul have been completely transformed and are healthy and thriving. They’ve become a wonderful, place for recreational activities, including bird watching, kayaking, fishing and camping.”



Caption: Australian pelicans and Black Swans cruising Lake Powell.



Caption: A gaggle of Australasian Grebes and a Grey Teal Duck amongst the Red Water Milfoil.



Caption: Australasian Darter fledglings have made themselves at home at Lake Powell.

To stay up to date with planned watering activities, follow Mallee CMA on social media and visit the website at <https://malleecma.com.au/waterways/>

MEDIA ENQUIRIES

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Background information:

The Mallee Catchment Management Authority (CMA) is a statutory authority established to ensure that natural resources in the region are managed in an integrated and ecologically sustainable way. Its work is based on science and delivered through meaningful partnerships with local organisations such as Landcare, community groups, and government agencies in the Victorian Mallee.

For more information visit www.malleecma.com.au