

**Aquatic and Littoral Vegetation of the Murray River
Downstream of Lock 1, the Lower Lakes, Murray
Estuary and Coorong.
A Literature Review.**



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Executive Summary

This literature review summarises the available information on the aquatic and littoral vegetation communities of the Murray River downstream of Lock 1, Lakes Alexandrina and Albert, Murray Estuary and Coorong. The purpose of the review is to provide background information for:

- identification of key drivers that influence the aquatic and littoral vegetation of the system,
- determining key knowledge gaps,
- a series of risk assessments that will investigate the potential impacts of proposed management scenarios for acid sulfate soil mitigation in the Lower Lakes,
- the potential recovery of the system when freshwater flows return,
- and long-term planning,

The study region has been split into five biogeographic regions that historically had significantly different aquatic and littoral plant communities:

- the gorge (Lock 1 to Mannum),
- lower swamps (Mannum to Wellington),
- Lower Lakes (Lakes Alexandrina and Albert),
- Murray Estuary (Goolwa to Tauwichee)
- Coorong Lagoons

The two main factors that determine the aquatic and littoral plant community in the study area are water regime (especially water depth) and salinity. Upstream of the barrages water regime is probably the most important factor (although salinity is important at a local scale) and downstream of the barrages salinity is the most important factor (although water level is important in the South Lagoon of the Coorong).

The study area has undergone significant changes since European settlement. Prior to large-scale water abstraction and river regulation there were spring floods with low water levels in summer and autumn upstream of Wellington, the Lower Lakes were predominantly fresh and Murray Estuary (which extended to Point Sturt) and Coorong had a variable salinity regime that was dependent on river flow. Large-scale abstraction for irrigated agriculture commenced in the early 1900s, which resulted in reduced river flows and saline incursions extending upstream of Point Sturt. The construction of the barrages in 1940 returned the Lower Lakes to freshwater ecosystem but disconnected the Murray Estuary and Coorong from Lake Alexandrina. This has resulted in predominantly static water levels between Goolwa and Lock 1, a variable salinity

regime in the Murray Estuary and North Lagoon of the Coorong and the South Lagoon being predominantly hypersaline. Subsequently, the vegetation communities of each biographic region are typically characterised by species that are adapted to the prevailing environmental conditions in each region.

Despite being highly modified, a total of 353 taxa (including 132 exotics and four listed as rare in South Australia) have been recorded from the study region since 1975. The study area is important (it is an aquatic system in an otherwise dry environment) and contributes to regional and state biodiversity because a completely different suite of species is often present compared to the adjacent highland.

The River Murray downstream of Lock 1, Lower Lakes, Murray Estuary and Coorong has undergone further changes in recent years due to the combination of drought and water abstraction. Reduced inflows into the system have resulted in a series of issues, including, the longest closure of the barrages on record, the near closure of the Murray Mouth in the early 2000s which consequently requires dredging to remain open. Further compounding these effects are low flows over Lock 1 since 2007, which have resulted in a drop in water levels in the Lower Lakes and Murray downstream of Lock 1, which are currently below sea level. As a result the vegetation of the system has undergone significant changes. *Ruppia megacarpa*, which was common in Murray estuary and North Lagoon, has not been observed since the mid 1990s. *Ruppia tuberosa*, a highly salt tolerant species that was common in the South Lagoon early this century, has declined in abundance in the South Lagoon but colonised the North Lagoon.

Fringing wetlands in the Lower Lakes and floodplain wetlands upstream of Wellington that were historically permanent have dried completely, which has resulted in the loss of large areas of submergent (e.g. *Vallisneria spiralis*, *Potamogeton crispus*) and (in some cases) amphibious species (e.g. *Myriophyllum* spp.) from these habitats. Species lost from the permanent wetlands have not colonised the remnant inundated habitats (the main channel and Lower Lakes). Fringing communities have also undergone significant changes with the less desiccation tolerant species (e.g. *Typha* spp. *Schoenoplectus validus*) declining in abundance; however, the more desiccation (e.g. *Phragmites australis*) and salt (e.g. *Halosarcia pergranulata*, *Sarcocornia quinqueflora*) tolerant fringing species have remained but are disconnected from the remnant inundated habitats.

Nevertheless, the system has showed that it is resilient and currently has capacity for recovery. Water level rises as part of Goolwa Channel water level management plan have resulted in recolonisation of submergents and growth of fringing species in Goolwa Channel. How long the system can remain resilient is unknown.

1. Introduction

This literature review summarises the available information on the aquatic and littoral vegetation communities of the River Murray downstream of Lock 1, Lakes Alexandrina and Albert, Murray Estuary and Coorong. The purpose of the review is to provide background information for:

- identification of key drivers that influence the aquatic and littoral vegetation of the system,
- determining key knowledge gaps,
- a series of risk assessments that will investigate the potential impacts of proposed management scenarios for acid sulfate soil mitigation in the Lower Lakes,
- the potential recovery of the system when freshwater flows return,
- and long-term planning,

The information available regarding the aquatic and littoral vegetation of the study region has been collected sporadically and there is only one long term data set; *Ruppia tuberosa* monitoring in the South Lagoon of the Coorong that was first undertaken in 1999 (Paton 2000) and is ongoing. The majority of the information available is from targeted, short-term studies (usually 2-3 years); therefore, medium to long-term changes through time can only be compared on a qualitative basis. Nevertheless, there is a considerable amount of peer reviewed and grey literature available regarding the vegetation of the study region dating back to the mid 1970s and documented oral history accounts of the region dating back to the late 1800s (Sim and Muller 2004).

The earliest available published information was a catalogue of the submergent plants and algae of the Coorong Lagoons (Womersley 1975). In the late 1970s Brock (1979; 1981b; 1981a; 1982a; 1982b) investigated the ecology and physiology of *Ruppia* spp. the dominant submergent species in the Coorong. There were further studies of the submergent plants in the Coorong in the 1980s (Geddes and Butler 1984; Geddes 1987; Geddes and Hall 1990) and 1990s (Edyvane *et al.* 1996) and recent long-term monitoring in the South Lagoon (Paton 1996; Paton 2000; Paton 2001; Paton and Bolton 2001; Paton 2005a; Paton 2005b; Paton and Rogers 2008).

The aquatic and littoral vegetation upstream of the barrages has not been studied to the same extent as the Coorong. Qualitative one-off surveys as part of large scale biological surveys were undertaken in the mid 1980s (Pressey 1986; Thompson 1986), mid 1990s (Nichols 1998), early this century (Stewart *et al.* 2009) and the South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board commissioned wetland baseline surveys in 2004 (Holt *et al.* 2005), 2005 (Nicol *et al.* 2006), 2006 (Marsland and Nicol 2007) and 2007 (Marsland and Nicol 2008).

The aforementioned studies were one-off surveys with the aim to record species present; however, they provide an excellent baseline with which to compare recent changes. In addition, a vegetation condition monitoring program was established in the Lower Lakes in 2008 to report on Living Murray targets (Marsland and Nicol 2009; Nicol and Marsland 2010) and monitoring was undertaken in 2008-09 in wetlands downstream of Lock 1 to investigate the impacts of low water levels (Nicol 2010), which are used to assess the current condition of the plant communities.

Many of the dominant species in the study area are cosmopolitan and information regarding the physiological tolerances and water regime preferences of individual species usually comes from peer reviewed scientific papers; however, quantitative information regarding the salinity tolerances is only available for 69 species. Furthermore, much of this information has been collected from outside of the study area and has been supplemented by expert opinion and observations.

1.1. Study Region

This review will focus on the aquatic and littoral (fringing) vegetation of the River Murray and associated wetlands (connected at historical pool level) downstream of Lock 1 (gorge and lower swamps), Lakes Alexandrina and Albert, the Murray Estuary (Goolwa to Tauwichee) and the Coorong lagoons (Figure 1). The River Murray below Lock 1 was included in this review due to its hydrological connectivity with the Lower Lakes (upstream of the Clayton regulator). Water levels in the Lower Lakes are dependent on flows over Lock 1 and wind driven water level fluctuations (seiches) in the lakes affect water levels in the main channel and wetlands as far upstream as Lock 1. The Coorong and Murray Estuary, whilst disconnected from Lake Alexandrina by the barrages, rely on flows from the lakes to maintain a variable salinity regime.

The River Murray in South Australia has been traditionally split into five biogeographical units based primarily on geomorphology (Pressey 1986; Thompson 1986). The valley section (NSW/SA border to Lock 3) is characterised by a broad floodplain with numerous permanent and temporary wetlands (Holt et al. 2005). Downstream of Lock 3 the river enters a narrow, deep limestone trench, with steep cliffs on either side of the river (gorge section, Lock 3 to Mannum) (Pressey 1986; Thompson 1986; Jensen et al. 1996). Between Mannum and Wellington (the lower swamps), the river still flows through a narrow gorge; however, the floodplain has been extensively modified and largely converted to dairy swamps (the remnant wetlands are generally areas where levees could not be constructed) (Pressey 1986; Thompson 1986). Downstream of Wellington the river flows into a broad, shallow terminal freshwater lake

system (Lakes Alexandrina and Albert, the Lower Lakes) (Pressey 1986; Thompson 1986; Jensen et al. 1996; Phillips and Muller 2006) (Figure 1). The Murray Estuary stretches from Goolwa to Tauwitchere (Figure 1) and is separated from Lake Alexandrina by a series of five barrages that prevent saline water from entering the lake (Phillips and Muller 2006). South east of the Murray Estuary lies the Coorong (North and South Lagoons), a shallow elongate coastal lagoon system separated from the Southern Ocean by the Youngusband Peninsula (Geddes and Brock 1977; Geddes and Butler 1984; Geddes 1987; Department for Environment and Heritage 2000; Phillips and Muller 2006) (Figure 1).

Despite the interactions and common factors that influence the plant community, there is considerable evidence that the plant communities in each region are distinct and will be treated separately throughout this review. For example, Nicol et al. (2006) reported that the wetland and floodplain plant communities were significantly different between the gorge, lower swamps and Lower Lakes wetlands. Likewise the plant community of the Coorong and Murray Estuary is very different from the community upstream of the barrages due to large differences in salinity upstream and downstream of the barrages.

1.1.1 Gorge (Lock 1 to Mannum)

Downstream of Lock 1 the River Murray flows predominately in a southerly direction constrained within a limestone gorge with steep cliffs on both sides of the river (Pressey 1986; Thompson 1986; Holt *et al.* 2005) (Figure 1). The floodplain is generally less than 500 m wide and permanent wetlands have developed on the floodplain as a result of stable water levels due to river regulation (Pressey 1986; Thompson 1986).

The primary factor that influences the aquatic and littoral vegetation between Lock 1 and Mannum is water regime, especially water level, which is primarily controlled by flows over Lock 1 and barrage operations. In addition, wind speed and direction can influence water levels on daily or even hourly time scales. Strong southerly winds can push water from the Lower Lakes up the main channel of the Murray River causing water levels to rise and strong northerly winds have the opposite effect. These short-term, wind driven water level fluctuations (seiches) have resulted in the fringes of permanent wetlands and the river channel being subjected to wetting and drying, which has probably increased the area of the littoral zone compared to wetlands with static water levels. Salinity also has an impact, especially in recent times, in dry wetlands where there is evidence of saline groundwater intrusions (J. Nicol pers. obs.).

1.1.2 Lower Swamps (Mannum to Wellington)

Similar to the gorge section, the River Murray between Mannum and Wellington flows in a southerly direction constrained within a limestone gorge (Pressey 1986; Thompson 1986; Holt *et al.* 2005) (Figure 1). However, in contrast to the gorge region, the floodplain has been extensively modified for irrigated agriculture (Pressey 1986; Thompson 1986; Jensen *et al.* 1996). Levee banks were constructed along the either side of the River Murray, irrigation channels dug and the floodplain levelled to flood irrigate pasture for dairy production. Jensen *et al.* (1996) reported that 93% of the floodplain between Mannum and Wellington was converted to dairy swamp with the remnant wetlands in areas where levees could not be constructed. However, in recent years, several dairy swamps have had grazing removed and rehabilitation/restoration is currently being undertaken (e.g. Piawalla Swamp).

The primary factor that influences the aquatic and littoral vegetation in the lower swamps is also water regime, especially water level, which is controlled by the same factors that influence water regime in the gorge region (flows over Lock 1, barrage operations and seiching). However, adjacent land use, historical land use, restoration activities, levee bank construction, salinity and invasive species are also important factors that influence the lower swamps plant community.

1.1.3 Lower Lakes (Lakes Alexandrina and Albert and the Lower Finnis River and Currency Creek)

Lakes Alexandrina and Albert are large shallow freshwater lakes situated at the terminus of the Murray-Darling Basin (Figure 1). Surface water predominantly feeds into Lake Alexandrina from the River Murray near the township of Wellington with minor inflows from tributaries (the Bremer, Angas and Finnis Rivers and Currency and Tookayerta Creeks) that drain the Eastern Mount Lofty Ranges (EMLR) along the south western edge of the Lake Alexandrina (Phillips and Muller 2006) (Figure 1). Groundwater discharge and rainfall also contribute significant inflows (Phillips and Muller 2006). Lake Albert then primarily receives water from Lake Alexandrina via a narrow channel (Narrung Narrows) connecting the two systems near Pt Malcolm (Figure 1); however, there is also bidirectional exchange between the lakes depending on wind direction. Water from Lake Alexandrina is similarly supplemented by rainfall and groundwater discharge in Lake Albert (Phillips and Muller 2006). Lake Albert represents the final, local terminus of the River Murray, since it has no current or historical through flow connection with the Coorong. Only water from Lake Alexandrina drains into the Murray Estuary, Southern Ocean or the Coorong via a series of channels (Phillips and Muller 2006) (Figure 1).

The primary factor that influences the plant community in the Lower Lakes is water regime particularly water level, which is influenced by inflows (predominantly the River Murray but inflows from the eastern Mt Lofty Ranges can be significant at times) and barrage operations. Since the construction of the Clayton regulator in 2009, which impounds flows from the Finnis River, Currency Creek and Tookayerta Creek (Figure 1), water levels between Clayton and Goolwa are higher than the remainder of Lake Alexandrina. Similarly the bank that was constructed across the Narrung Narrows in 2008 and subsequent pumping from Lake Alexandrina has meant that the water level in Lake Albert is higher than Lake Alexandrina. Nevertheless the seasonal water level fluctuations (winter/spring high water levels and summer/autumn low water levels) that occurred throughout the Lower Lakes still occur as do short-term wind driven water level fluctuations (Noye and Walsh 1976). Salinity is also an important factor, especially in Lake Albert wetlands and in areas adjacent to the barrages and Coorong in Lake Alexandrina.

1.1.4 Murray Estuary (Goolwa to Tauwichee)

The Murray Estuary (via the Murray Mouth) is the only site where material (primarily sediment, nutrients and salt) can move from the Murray-Darling Basin into the Southern Ocean (Phillips and Muller 2006). The Murray Estuary is located between the Goolwa and Tauwichee Barrages (Figure 1), which historically was considered part of the Coorong; however, for the purposes of this review it has been designated a separate region because it represents the extent of tidal influence and the area most affected by controlled barrage releases (Webster 2005a; Webster 2005b; Webster 2007).

The primary factor influencing the vegetation of the Murray Estuary is salinity, which is dependent upon River Murray inflows and tidal incursion. Due to limited freshwater inflows to the Murray Estuary through the Murray Barrages over the past 10-15 years, increased sedimentation has resulted in the need for constant dredging of the Murray Mouth (since late 2002) to maintain a connection between the Coorong and Southern Ocean (Geddes 2005a; Phillips and Muller 2006; Brookes *et al.* 2009).

1.1.5 Coorong Lagoons

The Coorong is a shallow, elongate coastal lagoon confined by the coastal dune barrier of the Youngusband Peninsula (Figure 1). The Coorong stretches for 140 km in a south-east, north-west direction (Geddes and Butler 1984; Geddes 1987; Geddes and Hall 1990; Seaman 2003) and is comprised of two main lagoons (the North and South Lagoons) of similar size almost separated by a spit of land (Hells Gate) (Lothian and Williams 1988) (Figure 1).

Salinity is the primary factor that influences the plant community in the Coorong (Womersley 1975; Noye and Walsh 1976; Geddes and Brock 1977; Gilbertson and Foale 1977; Geddes 1987; Geddes and Hall 1990; Webster 2005a; Webster 2005b; Brookes *et al.* 2009; Lester and Fairweather 2009). Salinity in the Coorong is spatially and temporally variable. Salinity ranges from fresh near the barrages when large quantities of water are being released from Lake Alexandrina, through brackish to the salinity of seawater (35‰ TDS) near the Murray Mouth (when the Barrages are closed), grading to hypersaline (>35-115‰ TDS) in the southern end of the North Lagoon and the South Lagoon (e.g. Paton 1982; Geddes 1987; Lothian and Williams 1988; Seaman 2003; Phillips and Muller 2006; Paton and Rogers 2008). Water level is also an important factor in the South Lagoon where water levels fluctuate seasonally from winter/spring highs to late summer/autumn lows (Geddes 1987; Seaman 2003) and over shorter temporal scales due to the speed and direction of the wind (Noye and Walsh 1976).

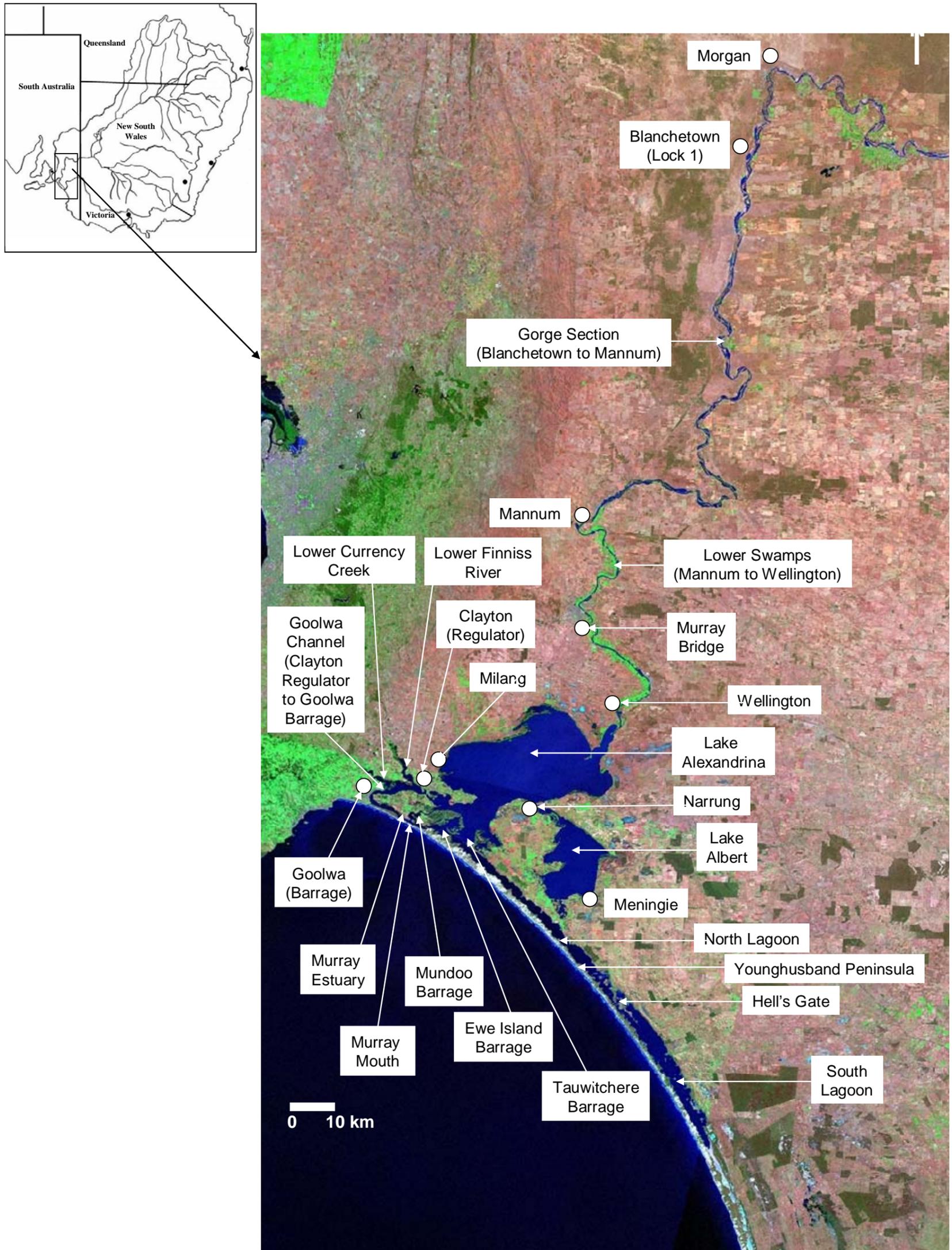


Figure 1: The River Murray from Morgan to the mouth including the Lower Lakes and Coorong Lagoons.

1.1.6 Changes to the Natural Flow Regime

The River Murray downstream of Lock 1, Lower Lakes, Murray Estuary and Coorong have undergone significant changes since European settlement (Sim and Muller 2004; Phillips and Muller 2006; Fluin *et al.* 2007; Dick *et al.* 2010). Prior to the construction of the barrages, main channel locks and weirs and headwater storages the River Murray downstream of Lock 1 would have had a variable flow regime with spring floods and low water levels in autumn (Walker 1985; Walker 1986; Walker *et al.* 1992; Walker and Thoms 1993; Davies *et al.* 1994; Maheshwari *et al.* 1995; Walker *et al.* 1995; Puckridge *et al.* 1998; Puckridge *et al.* 2000). Downstream of Wellington the water levels were more stable because of the large area of the lakes and permanent inflows from the River Murray, which resulted in the lakes being predominantly fresh with occasional saline incursions only as far upstream as Point Sturt, during periods of low flow (Sim and Muller 2004; Fluin *et al.* 2007). The Murray Estuary and Coorong were truly estuarine systems with a variable salinity regime along the entire length of the Coorong (Fluin *et al.* 2007; Dick *et al.* 2010).

Early last century abstraction of water for irrigation commenced and the construction of Hume Dam was completed, which resulted in more frequent saline incursions that reached much further upstream (Sim and Muller 2004; Fluin *et al.* 2007). The saline incursions prompted the construction of the barrages, which were completed in 1940 and returned the Lower Lakes to a freshwater system (Sim and Muller 2004; Fluin *et al.* 2007). The construction of the barrages, coupled with regulation further upstream meant that the water level between the barrages and Lock 1 was generally static, except during periods of high flow (Walker 1985; Walker 1986; Walker *et al.* 1992; Walker and Thoms 1993; Davies *et al.* 1994; Maheshwari *et al.* 1995; Walker *et al.* 1995; Puckridge *et al.* 1998; Puckridge *et al.* 2000). The Murray Estuary and Coorong were disconnected from the lakes and the salinity gradient in the Coorong changed. The salinity in the Coorong ranged from fresh to marine in the Murray Estuary (depending on barrage outflows), brackish to hypermarine in the North Lagoon and hypermarine the South Lagoon (Geddes and Hall 1990; Dick *et al.* 2010).

Following construction of the Barrages and Lock 1, the conditions in the River Murray downstream of Lock 1, the Lower Lakes, Murray Estuary and Coorong were dependent on flow over Lock 1 and barrage operations. During the 1940s there were several years of drought and was considered a dry decade, in the 1950s there were several large floods, the 1960s were generally dry, there were several large floods in the 1970s, in the 1980s there was a severe drought that resulted in the closure of the Murray Mouth (Geddes and Butler 1984), in the 1990s there were several large floods (the last one in 1996) and early this century has been the driest period on record in the Murray-Darling Basin (DWLBC 2010). Climatic factors, and the high

level of abstraction have determined flow over Lock 1, which has determined the water levels in the Lower Lakes and in turn barrage outflows and the salinity in the Murray Estuary and Coorong.

1.2. Vegetation of the River Murray Downstream of Lock 1, Lower Lakes, Murray Estuary and Coorong

A total of 353 taxa (including 132 exotics and four listed as rare in South Australia) have been recorded from the study region since 1975 (list compiled from the following studies: Womersley 1975; Paton 1982; Pressey 1986; Thompson 1986; Geddes 1987; Renfrey *et al.* 1989; Brandle *et al.* 2002; Seaman 2003; Holt *et al.* 2005; Nicol *et al.* 2006; Weedon *et al.* 2006; Marsland and Nicol 2007; Marsland and Nicol 2008; Marsland and Nicol 2009; Stewart *et al.* 2009; Marsland *et al.* 2010; Nicol 2010; Nicol and Marsland 2010) (Appendix 1).

The River Murray (and associated wetlands and floodplain), Lower Lakes, Murray Estuary and Coorong is an aquatic ecosystem in an otherwise dry environment and many of the recorded 353 plant taxa do not occur above the 1956 flood level. Therefore, the region covered in the review (albeit highly modified) contributes significantly to regional and state biodiversity because a completely different suite of species is often present compared to the surrounding land (*sensu* Pollock *et al.* 1998). In addition, the Lower Lakes is the common boundary of South Australia's three wettest bioregions; the Mt Lofty Ranges, South East and Murray and elements of the wetland flora for each region is represented in the Lower Lakes.

1.2.1 Functional Groups

Due to the large number of species and communities present, species were classified into functional groups (based on water regime preferences) outlined in Table 1. The position each group occupies in relation to flooding depth and duration is outlined in Figure 2. The functional classification was based on the classification framework devised by Brock and Casanova (1997), which was based on species from wetlands in the New England Tablelands region of New South Wales and modified to suit the River Murray downstream of Lock 1, the Lower Lakes, Murray Estuary and Coorong.

The use of a functional group approach to assess change through time and potential impacts of management strategies has several advantages compared to a species or community based approach:

- species with similar water regimes preferences are grouped together, which simplifies systems with high species richness (especially where there are large numbers of species with similar water regime preferences),
- predictions about the response of the plant community are made based on processes and does not require prior biological knowledge of the system,
- is transferrable between systems,
- robust and testable models that predict the response of a system to an intervention or natural event can be constructed, which can in turn be used as hypotheses for monitoring programs.

However there are limitations of the approach, which include:

- loss of information on species or communities (especially if there are species or communities of conservation significance or there is a pest plant problem),
- uncertainty regarding which species should be classified into which functional group,
- important factors (e.g. salinity) are often not taken into consideration (additional factors can be included; however, this can often complicate the functional classification and in systems where there is low species richness the number of groups may be greater than the number of species).

In this review changes in ecological condition through time for each biogeographical region will be reviewed using species, community and functional approaches. The functional approach is explored because the conceptual models used in the environmental impact assessment and risk assessment will use functional groups to predict responses and impacts.

Table 1: Functional classification of plant species based on water regime preferences, modified from Brock and Casanova (1997).

| Functional Group | Water Regime Preference | Examples |
|---|---|---|
| Terrestrial dry | Will not tolerate inundation and tolerates low soil moisture for extended periods. | <i>Atriplex vesicaria</i> , <i>Rhagodia spinescens</i> , <i>Enchylaena tomentosa</i> |
| Terrestrial damp | Will tolerate inundation for short periods (<2 weeks) but require high soil moisture throughout their life cycle. | <i>Centaurea calcitrapa</i> , <i>Chenopodium album</i> , <i>Fumaria bastardii</i> |
| Floodplain | Temporary inundation, plants germinate on newly exposed soil after flooding but not in response to rainfall. | <i>Epaltes australis</i> , <i>Centipeda minima</i> , <i>Lachnagrostis filiformis</i> |
| Amphibious fluctuation tolerators-emergent | Fluctuating water levels, plants do not respond morphologically to flooding and drying and will tolerate short-term complete submergence (<2 weeks). | <i>Cyperus gymnocaulos</i> , <i>Juncus kraussii</i> , <i>Schoenoplectus pungens</i> |
| Amphibious fluctuation tolerators-woody | Fluctuating water levels, plants do not respond morphologically to flooding and drying and are large perennial woody species. | <i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i> , <i>Melaleuca halimifolium</i> , <i>Muehlenbeckia florulenta</i> |
| Amphibious fluctuation tolerators-low growing | Fluctuating water levels, plants do not respond morphologically to flooding and drying and are generally small herbaceous species. | <i>Limosella australis</i> , <i>Crassula helmsii</i> , <i>Brachycome basaltica</i> |
| Amphibious fluctuation responders-plastic | Fluctuating water levels, plants respond morphologically to flooding and drying (e.g. increasing above to below ground biomass ratios when flooded). | <i>Persicaria lapathifolium</i> , <i>Ludwigia peploides</i> , <i>Myriophyllum</i> spp. |
| Floating | Static or fluctuating water levels, responds to fluctuating water levels by having some or all organs floating on the water surface. Most species require permanent water to survive. | <i>Azolla</i> spp., <i>Lemna</i> spp., <i>Spirodella punctata</i> |
| Submergent r-selected | Temporary wetlands that hold water for longer than 4 months. | <i>Ruppia tuberosa</i> , <i>Ruppia polycarpa</i> , <i>Lamprothamnium papulosum</i> |
| Emergent | Static shallow water <1 m or permanently saturated soil. | <i>Typha</i> spp., <i>Phragmites australis</i> , <i>Schoenoplectus validus</i> |
| Submergent k-selected | Permanent water. | <i>Vallisneria americana</i> , <i>Potamogeton crispus</i> , <i>Ruppia megacarpa</i> |

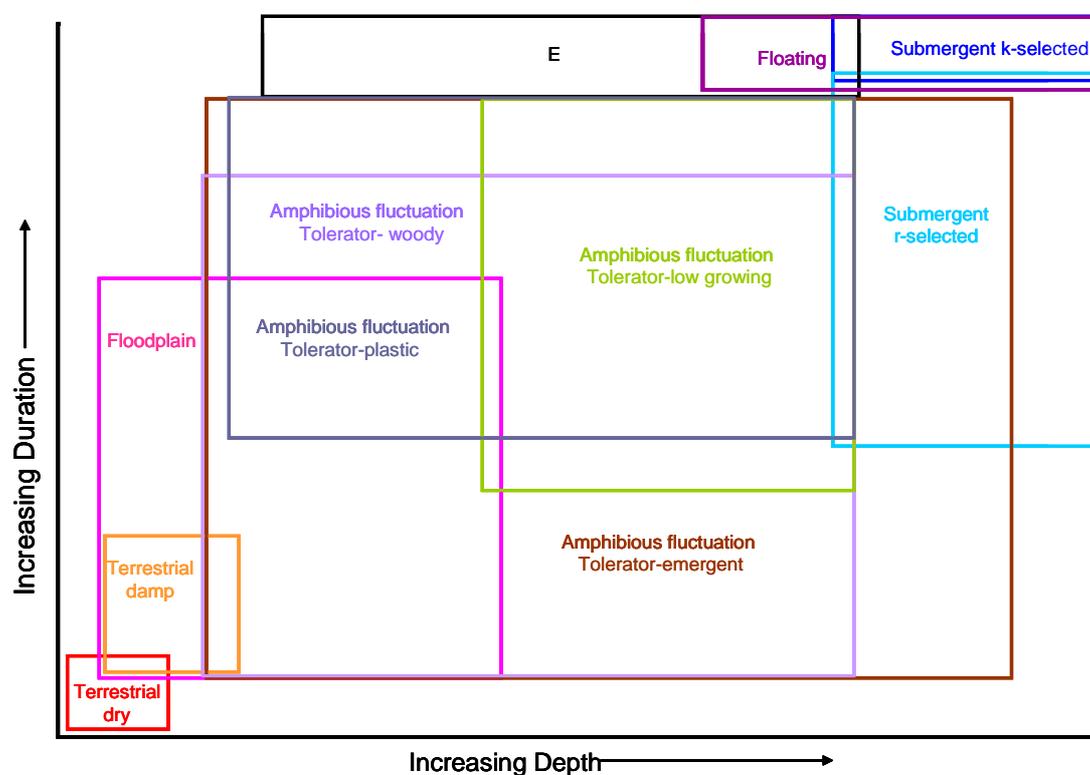


Figure 2: Plant functional groups in relation to depth and duration of flooding.

The “terrestrial dry” functional group is intolerant of flooding and taxa will persist in environments with low soil moisture (Table 1) (Brock and Casanova 1997). Taxa from this functional group often invade wetlands that have been drawn down for an extended period or floodplains where there has been a lack of flooding but are generally restricted to highlands that never flood (Brock and Casanova 1997).

Taxa in the “terrestrial damp” group will tolerate inundation for short periods and require high soil moisture to complete their life cycle (Table 1) (Brock and Casanova 1997). Taxa from this functional group are often winter annuals, perennial species that grow around the edges of permanent water bodies where there is high soil moisture or species that colonise wetlands shortly after they are drawn down and riparian zones and floodplains shortly after flood waters recede (Brock and Casanova 1997).

Taxa in the “floodplain” functional group exhibit most of the traits of terrestrial species; they are generally intolerant of long-term inundation but are restricted to areas that flood periodically

(they are absent from the highlands) because they only germinate after flood waters recede or wetlands are drawn down, not in response to rainfall (Table 1) (Nicol 2004). Taxa from this functional group colonise floodplains and riparian zones after flood waters have receded and when wetlands are drawn down (Nicol 2004). Floodplain species often have flexible life history strategies, they grow whilst soil moisture is high and flower and set seed (after which most species die) in response to low soil moisture (Nicol 2004).

The “amphibious fluctuation tolerator-emergent” group consists mainly of emergent sedges and rushes that prefer high soil moisture or shallow water but require their photosynthetic parts to be emergent, although many will often tolerate short-term submergence (Table 1) (Brock and Casanova 1997). Taxa from this group are often found on the edges of permanent water bodies, in seasonal and temporary wetlands, in riparian zones and areas that frequently wet and dry.

Species in the “amphibious fluctuation tolerator-woody” group have similar water regime preferences to the amphibious fluctuation tolerator-emergent group (Figure 2) and consist of woody perennial species (Table 1) (Brock and Casanova 1997). Plants generally require high soil moisture in the root zone but there are several species (e.g. *Eucalyptus largiflorens*) that are tolerant of desiccation for extended periods (Roberts and Marston 2000). Species in this functional group are generally found on the edges of permanent water bodies, in seasonal and temporary wetlands, in riparian zones and areas that frequently wet and dry.

The “amphibious fluctuation tolerator-low growing” group have similar water regime preferences to the amphibious fluctuation tolerator-emergent and amphibious fluctuation tolerator-woody group (Figure 2); however, some species can grow totally submerged except during flowering (when there is a requirement for a dry phase) (Table 1) (Brock and Casanova 1997). Species in the this functional group are generally found on the edges of permanent water bodies, in seasonal and temporary wetlands, in riparian zones and areas that frequently wet and dry but species are usually less desiccation tolerant than species in the other amphibious tolerator groups (Figure 2).

The “amphibious fluctuation responder-plastic” group occupies a similar zone to the amphibious fluctuation tolerator-low growing group; except that they have a physical response to water level changes such as rapid shoot elongation or a change in leaf type (Brock and Casanova 1997). They can persist on damp and drying ground because of their morphological flexibility but can flower even if the site does not dry out. They occupy a slightly deeper/wet for longer area than the amphibious fluctuation tolerator-low growing group (Figure 2).

Species in the “floating” functional group float on the top of the water (often unattached to the sediment) with the majority of species requiring the presence of free water of some depth year round; although, some species can survive and complete their life cycle stranded on mud (Table 1) (Brock and Casanova 1997). Taxa in this group are usually found in permanent waterbodies, often forming large floating mats upstream of barriers (e.g. weirs), in lentic water bodies and slackwaters.

“Submergent r-selected” species colonise recently flooded areas (Table 1) and show many of the attributes of Grime’s (1979) r-selected (ruderal) species, which are adapted to periodic disturbances. Many require drying to stimulate germination; they frequently complete their life cycle quickly and die off naturally. They persist via a dormant, long-lived bank of seeds, spores or asexual propagules (e.g. *Ruppia tuberosa* and *Ruppia polycarpa* turions in the soil) (Brock 1982b). They prefer habitats that are annually flooded to a depth of more than 10cm but can persist as dormant propagules for a number of years (temporary or ephemeral wetlands).

The “emergent” group consists of taxa that require permanent shallow water or a permanently saturated root zone, but require emergent leaves or stems (Table 1). They are often found on the edges of permanent waterbodies and in permanent water up to 2 m deep (depending on species) or in areas where there are shallow water tables (Roberts and Marston 2000).

“Submergent k-selected” species require permanent water greater than 10 cm deep for more than a year to either germinate or reach sufficient biomass to start reproducing (Table 1) (Roberts and Marston 2000). Species in this group show many of the attributes of Grime’s (1979) k-selected (competitor) species that are adapted to stable environments and are only found in permanent water bodies. The depth of colonisation of submergent k-selected species is dependant on photosynthetic efficiency and water clarity (*sensu* Spence 1982)

Whilst water regime is the primary driver of plant community composition (e.g. Brownlow 1997; Nielsen and Chick 1997; Begg *et al.* 1998; Blanch *et al.* 1999b; Blanch *et al.* 1999a; Blanch *et al.* 2000; Casanova and Brock 2000; Capon 2003; Nicol *et al.* 2003; Capon 2007; Deegan *et al.* 2007; Boers and Zedler 2008), especially upstream of the barrages, salinity is also an important driver particularly in the region (Geddes and Butler 1984; Geddes 1987; Geddes and Hall 1990; Brookes *et al.* 2009; Lester and Fairweather 2009). Therefore, each taxon and community was assigned a salinity tolerance group based on values reported in the literature (if available) or field or observations (Table 2).

Table 2: Functional classification based on salinity tolerance.

| Salinity Tolerance Group | EC (Salinity) Range | Examples |
|--------------------------|---|--|
| High | >50,000 EC (>31,250 mg l ⁻¹) | <i>Halosarcia pergranulata</i> , <i>Sarcocornia quinqueflora</i> , <i>Ruppia tuberosa</i> , <i>Melaleuca halmaturorum</i> |
| Moderate | 10,000-50,000 EC (6,250-31,250 mg l ⁻¹) | <i>Phragmites australis</i> , <i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i> , <i>Lepilaena australis</i> , <i>Juncus kraussii</i> |
| Low | <10,000 EC (<6,250 mg l ⁻¹) | <i>Potamogeton crispus</i> , <i>Schoenoplectus validus</i> , <i>Salix babylonica</i> , <i>Azolla filiculoides</i> |

The values for salinity tolerance are (where possible) absolute salinity tolerances of adult plants determined under laboratory or greenhouse conditions. If this information is unavailable inferences of the salinity tolerance of species have been made from field observations (e.g. coexistence with species of high salinity tolerance, present in areas of salt scald or high salinity water). In addition, salinity tolerance values did not take into consideration the salinity thresholds of juveniles (e.g. Marcar *et al.* 2000; Naidoo and Kift 2006), germination and recruitment (e.g. Ungar 2001; Malcolm *et al.* 2003; Greenwood and MacFarlane 2006; Robinson *et al.* 2006; Song *et al.* 2008; Wetson *et al.* 2008; Elsey-Quirk *et al.* 2009), key life history stages (e.g. flowering and seed set) (e.g. Short and Colmer 1999; Salter *et al.* 2010), interactions between salinity and other environmental factors (e.g. Clarke and Hannon 1970; Davis 1978; Stephens 1990; Naidoo and Kift 2006; Raulings *et al.* 2007; Salter *et al.* 2007; Colmer and Flowers 2008; Flowers and Colmer 2008; Salter *et al.* 2008; Song *et al.* 2009) and competition (e.g. Greenwood and MacFarlane 2009).

2. Recent Ecological Condition (2004-2007)

The plant communities present at the regional scale prior to 2007 were primarily the result of water regime (upstream of the barrages) (Holt *et al.* 2005; Nicol *et al.* 2006; Weedon *et al.* 2006; Marsland and Nicol 2007; Marsland and Nicol 2008; Marsland *et al.* 2010) and salinity (downstream of the barrages) (e.g. Geddes and Brock 1977; Paton 1982; Geddes and Butler 1984; Geddes 1987; Geddes and Hall 1990; Paton and Rogers 2008) (Appendix 2), which is driven by River Murray flows. However, local land use (e.g. urbanisation, grazing) and wave action are also important at the wetland or reach scale (e.g. Holt *et al.* 2005; Nicol *et al.* 2006; Weedon *et al.* 2006; Marsland and Nicol 2007; Marsland and Nicol 2008; Marsland *et al.* 2010).

The Murray-Darling Basin had been in extended drought during 2004-2007 with no overbank flows (the last large overbank flow was in 1996 and there was an in channel flow in 2000) with one small in-channel flow in 2005 (DWLBC 2010). During this time water levels upstream of the barrages fluctuated between 0.8 m AHD in spring and 0.5 m AHD in autumn (Figure 3).

Prior to 2004 water levels generally fluctuated between 0.9 m AHD in spring 0.5 m AHD in autumn with water levels falling to 0.4 m AHD in autumn 2003 (Figure 3). In addition, flows over the barrages have been limited with small releases in September-October 2003 (Geddes 2005a) and August 2004 (Geddes 2005b) (Figure 4). The resultant low flows caused the near closure of the Murray Mouth, which has been kept open by dredging since late 2002 (Phillips and Muller 2006). This has resulted in marine (or greater) salinities in the Murray Estuary and a salinity gradient ranging from marine adjacent to Tauwitchere Barrage to hypermarine in the South Lagoon of the Coorong (Phillips and Muller 2006). The salinity in the North and South Lagoons of the Coorong has been steadily increasing through time due to the continual input of salt from the Southern Ocean via the open Murray Mouth, lack of tidal flushing south of Tauwitchere Barrage and lack of flows from the River Murray that will flush salt out of the system into the Southern Ocean (Brookes *et al.* 2009).

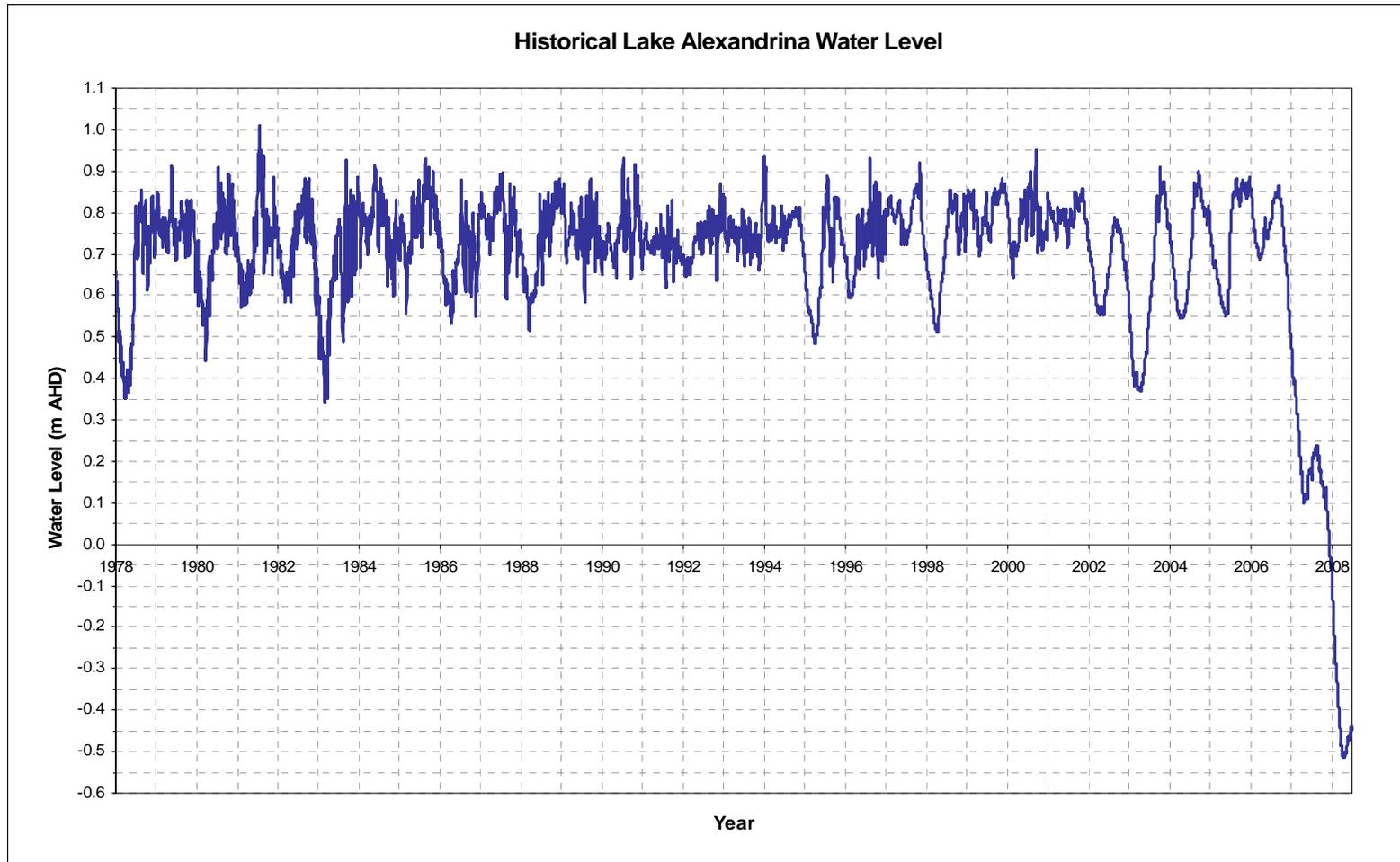


Figure 3: Water levels in the Lower Lakes (m AHD) from 1978 to 2008 (DWLBC 2010).

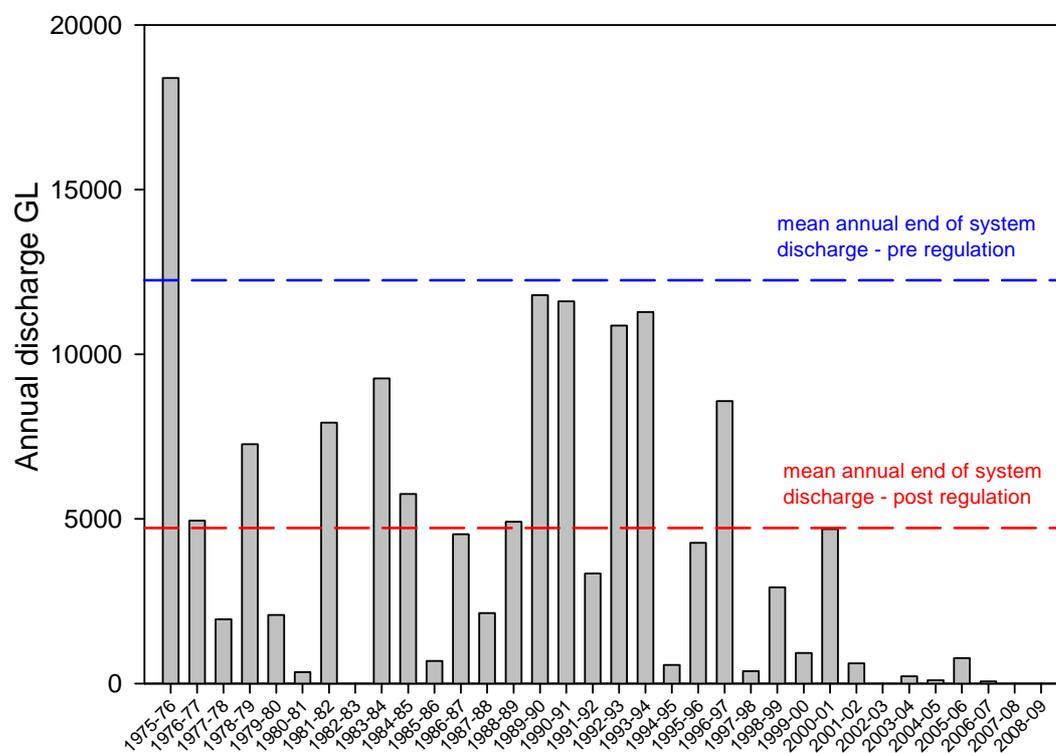


Figure 4: Annual discharge from the barrages from 1975 to 2006 (Bice 2010).

2.1. Gorge (Lock 1 to Mannum)

The aquatic and littoral plant communities between Mannum and Lock 1 between 2004 and 2007 were typical of areas with limited water level fluctuations (Walker 1985; Walker 1986; Walker *et al.* 1992; Walker and Thoms 1993; Walker *et al.* 1994; Blanch *et al.* 1999b; Blanch *et al.* 2000) (Appendix 2a).

The shallow (<1 m depth) permanently inundated areas of wetlands connected at pool level were dominated by submergent k-selected species such as *Vallisneria spiralis*, *Ceratophyllum demersum* *Potamogeton crispus* and *Potamogeton tricarlinatus*, desiccation intolerant Amphibious fluctuation responder-plastic species such as *Myriophyllum verrucosum* and *Myriophyllum papulosum* and floating species such as *Azolla filiculoides* (Appendix 2a). The areas deeper than 1 m were generally devoid of vegetation with the exception of Floating species (Holt *et al.* 2005; Nicol *et al.* 2006; Weedon *et al.* 2006; Marsland and Nicol 2007; Marsland and Nicol 2008).

The wetland fringing vegetation was often dominated by dense; almost monospecific stands of Emergent species such as *Typha* spp., *Phragmites australis* and *Schoenoplectus validus*; however, there

were areas with diverse Floodplain, Amphibious and Emergent herb, sedge and rush communities that included, *Juncus usitatus*, *Cyperus gymnocaulos*, *Limosella australis*, *Bolboschoenus caldwellii*, *Mimulus repens*, *Lycopus australis*, *Berula erecta*, *Epaltes australis*, *Sporobolus mitchellii*, *Ludwigia peploides*, *Persicaria lapathifolium*, *Lachnagrostis filiformis* and *Stemodia florulenta* (Holt *et al.* 2005; Nicol *et al.* 2006; Weedon *et al.* 2006; Marsland and Nicol 2007; Marsland and Nicol 2008) (Appendix 2a). The overstorey (if present) was *Eucalyptus camaldulensis*, with *Myoporum montanum*, *Acacia stenophylla* (open woodland) and *Muehlenbeckia florulenta* (often forming dense closed shrublands). The condition of *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* trees was generally good to excellent; although, the proportion of trees in moderate to poor condition was generally higher in wetlands closer to Lock 1 (Holt *et al.* 2005; Nicol *et al.* 2006; Weedon *et al.* 2006; Marsland and Nicol 2007; Marsland and Nicol 2008).

The main channel was generally devoid of submergent species except for small patches on shallow bars and benches (Marsland *et al.* 2010). In contrast the fringing vegetation was dominated by dense stands of the Emergents *Typha* spp. *Phragmites australis* and *Schoenoplectus validus*, often with *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* and *Acacia stenophylla* overstorey. *Salix* spp. (willows) formed dense; almost monospecific stands in some areas especially between Mannum and Purnong (Marsland *et al.* 2010).

2.2. Lower Swamps (Mannum to Wellington)

Similar to the gorge section the aquatic and littoral plant communities between Mannum and Wellington between 2004 and 2007 were typical of areas with limited water level fluctuations (Walker 1985; Walker 1986; Walker *et al.* 1992; Walker and Thoms 1993; Walker *et al.* 1994; Blanch *et al.* 1999b; Blanch *et al.* 2000) (Appendix 2b).

Wetlands in the Lower Swamps are generally shallower than those in the gorge section and generally do not have large beds of Submergent species (Appendix 2b) or areas of open water (with the exception of Reedy Creek and Rocky Gully, which were dominated by open water and floating species and *Ruppia megacarpa* and *Potamogeton crispus* respectively) (Holt *et al.* 2005; Nicol *et al.* 2006). Lower Swamps wetlands are generally dominated by extensive stands of emergent species such as *Typha* spp. and *Phragmites australis* with high abundances of agricultural weeds and pasture species such as *Medicago* spp., *Trifolium* spp., *Lolium* spp. and *Melilotus* spp. in the littoral zone (Holt *et al.* 2005; Nicol *et al.* 2006) (Appendix 2b). Nevertheless there are small areas of diverse Floodplain, Amphibious and Emergent herb, sedge and rush communities with similar species compositions to gorge wetlands (Holt *et al.* 2005; Nicol *et al.* 2006) (Appendix 2b). The over storey was generally *Eucalyptus camaldulensis*, *Acacia stenophylla* (open woodlands or scattered

trees) or *Muehlenbeckia florulenta* (scattered shrubs or closed shrublands) and the majority of *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* trees were in either good or excellent condition (Holt *et al.* 2005; Nicol *et al.* 2006) (Appendix 2b).

Similar to the gorge section the main channel was generally devoid of Submergent species except for small patches on shallow bars and benches. The fringing vegetation between Mannum and Wellington is predominantly *Salix* spp. with small scattered patches of *Phragmites australis* and *Typha* spp. (Marsland *et al.* 2010).

2.3. Lower Lakes (Lakes Alexandrina and Albert and the Lower Finnis River and Currency Creek)

The vegetation in the Lower Lakes was also typical of systems with limited water level fluctuations (Walker 1985; Walker 1986; Walker *et al.* 1992; Walker and Thoms 1993; Walker *et al.* 1994; Blanch *et al.* 1999b; Blanch *et al.* 2000) (Appendix 2c); however, salinity (*sensu* King *et al.* 1990) and wave action (*sensu* Wilson and Keddy 1985; Foote and Kadlec 1988; Coops and Van der Velde 1996; Hudon *et al.* 2000; Doyle 2001; Hawes *et al.* 2003; Riis and Hawes 2003) were also important factors that determined the abundance and distribution of plants.

The open water areas of Lakes Alexandrina and Albert were generally devoid of plants probably due to wave action and depth (most areas that were shallow and could support submergent or amphibious species were subjected to wave action and there was insufficient light penetration in areas that are deeper than 1 m to support submergent and amphibious species). Submergent and amphibious species were generally restricted to fringing wetlands, sheltered bays, Goolwa Channel and the lower reaches of Currency Creek and the Finnis River. The areas with the greatest abundances of Submergent and Amphibious species were the wetlands and sheltered areas along the western shoreline of Lake Alexandrina and Goolwa Channel (Holt *et al.* 2005; Nicol *et al.* 2006). For example, extensive beds of *Vallisneria spiralis* were present at Milang Shores, Dunns Lagoon, Clayton Bay and in the channels on Hindmarsh Island (Holt *et al.* 2005) and *Myriophyllum* spp. was abundant near the Hindmarsh Island bridge (J. Nicol pers. obs.), in Clayton Bay, Dunns Lagoon (Holt *et al.* 2005) and Hunters Creek (Nicol *et al.* 2006). The plant communities present in wetlands along the eastern shoreline of Lake Alexandrina and around the edges of Lake Albert suggested that salinity plays a role in structuring the community. *Ruppia* spp. and *Lepilaena cylindrocarpa* were the dominant Submergent species in wetlands along the eastern shoreline of Lake Alexandrina and around Lake Albert (Holt *et al.* 2005; Nicol *et al.* 2006).

The fringing vegetation of the Lower Lakes was dominated by dense stands of *Typha* spp. and *Phragmites australis*, particularly the western shoreline of Lake Alexandrina, Goolwa Channel and lower reaches of Currency Creek and Finniss River (Seaman 2003). Nevertheless, there were areas of samphire vegetation (*Sarcocornia quinqueflora*, *Suaeda australis*, *Juncus kraussii*, *Halosarcia pergranulata*) and dense *Muehlenbeckia florulenta* shrublands predominantly around the edges of wetlands along the eastern shore of Lake Alexandrina, adjacent to the barrages and around Lake Albert (Seaman 2003; Holt *et al.* 2005; Nicol *et al.* 2006) (Appendix 2c).

Melaleuca balmaturorum is the dominant tree in the Lower Lakes and forms dense closed woodlands (Holliday 2004). *Melaleuca balmaturorum* woodlands are scattered around the edges of the Lower Lakes with the largest woodlands located at the mouth of Hunters Creek, on the northern shore of Hindmarsh Island, on Goat and Goose Islands near Clayton, in Salt Lagoon on the south-eastern shore of Lake Alexandrina and Kennedy Bay on the southern shore of Lake Albert. Age class information is only available for the stand at the mouth of Hunters Creek, which are predominantly older trees (>28 years) and there was no evidence of recruitment in the previous 10 years (all juveniles were planted by the local landcare group) (Nicol *et al.* 2006).

2.4. Murray Estuary (Goolwa to Tauwitchere)

The temporally variable salinity regime (low salinities during barrage outflows and marine salinities when the barrages are closed) that historically characterised the Murray Estuary (Geddes and Hall 1990) have not been present since the mid 1990s due to closure of the barrages and dredging of the Murray Mouth (Geddes 2005a; Geddes 2005b). The salinity in the Murray Estuary from 2004 to 2007 was marine for the most part with very little temporal variation (Brookes *et al.* 2009).

Historically, *Ruppia megacarpa* was the dominant submergent species in the Murray Estuary (and North Lagoon of the Coorong) because it is adapted to variable salinities ranging from fresh to 46‰ TDS (Brock 1982a; Brock 1982b). From the 1980s to the mid 1990s extensive beds of *Ruppia megacarpa* were present throughout the Murray Estuary (Geddes and Butler 1984; Geddes 1987; Edyvane *et al.* 1996). However, after the near closure of the Murray Mouth in 2001 the Murray Estuary was completely devoid of submergent species and has remained devoid of submergents to the present day, even after the controlled barrage releases in September–October 2004 and August 2005 (Geddes 2005a; Geddes 2005b; Nicol 2007). In addition, Nicol (2007) reported that there was no viable *Ruppia megacarpa* seed bank in the Murray Estuary. The

population dynamics of *Ruppia megacarpa* in the Murray Estuary from the mid 1970s to 2005 are summarised in Nicol (2005)

There is little information regarding the littoral vegetation of the Murray Estuary, there are extensive areas of sandy beaches and samphire shrublands (*Halosarcia pergranulata*, *Suaeda australis*, *Sarcocornia quinqueflora*) (Phillips and Muller 2006; Stewart *et al.* 2009) (Appendix 2d). In addition there are localised areas of emergent freshwater species (*Typha* spp., *Phragmites australis*) in areas where fresh groundwater discharges along the shoreline (Phillips and Muller 2006) (Appendix 2d).

2.5. Coorong Lagoons

A salinity gradient (salinity increases south-easterly along the length of the Coorong), ranging from marine close to Tauwitchere Barrage to hypermarine throughout most of the North Lagoon and all of the South Lagoon existed from 2004 to 2007. The increasing salinities were due lack of freshwater inflows (Figure 4) and inputs of salt from the Southern Ocean and evapoconcentration along the length of the Coorong lagoons in areas where tidal flushing is absent (Webster 2005b).

Historically *Ruppia megacarpa* was the dominant submergent species in the North Lagoon and *Ruppia tuberosa* in the South Lagoon (Womersley 1975; Geddes and Brock 1977; Geddes and Butler 1984; Geddes 1987; Geddes and Hall 1990). *Ruppia megacarpa* has not been observed in the North Lagoon since the early 1990s (Geddes and Hall 1990; Edyvane *et al.* 1996). *Ruppia tuberosa* has a higher salinity tolerance than *Ruppia megacarpa* and was common in the South Lagoon until the 2000s (Womersley 1975; Geddes and Brock 1977; Geddes and Butler 1984; Geddes 1987; Geddes and Hall 1990; Leary 1993; Paton 2000; Paton 2001; Paton *et al.* 2001; Nicol 2005; Phillips and Muller 2006). Since the early 2000s the abundance of *Ruppia tuberosa* has declined and by 2007 was absent from the southern half of the South Lagoon and had began to colonise the southern end of the North Lagoon (Paton 2005a; Paton 2005b; Paton and Rogers 2008; Brookes *et al.* 2009). The population dynamics of *Ruppia megacarpa* and *Ruppia tuberosa* in the North and South Lagoons of the Coorong from the mid 1970s to 2005 are summarised in Nicol (2005).

Similar to the Murray Estuary there is little information regarding the littoral vegetation of the Coorong; however, there are extensive areas of sandy beaches and samphire shrublands (*Halosarcia pergranulata*, *Suaeda australis*, *Sarcocornia quinqueflora*) (Phillips and Muller 2006; Stewart *et al.* 2009) (Appendix 2e). In addition, there are localised areas of emergent freshwater species

(*Typha* spp., *Phragmites australis*) where fresh groundwater discharges along the shoreline (Phillips and Muller 2006) (Appendix 2e).

3. Current Ecological Condition (post 2007)

Since 2007 flows over Lock 1 have not been sufficient to maintain pool level upstream of the barrages and water levels have been steadily falling to unprecedented lows (Figure 3). This has resulted in exposure and desiccation of large areas of lakebed, all of the fringing freshwater wetlands in the Lower Lakes, large areas of riverbank and all of the formerly permanent freshwater wetlands between Wellington and Lock 1. Exposure and subsequent oxidization of sediments that have not been exposed, in some cases, for thousands of years have resulted in the development of extensive areas of acid sulfate soils between the barrages and Lock 1 (Merry *et al.* 2003; Lamontagne *et al.* 2004; Fitzpatrick *et al.* 2009a; Fitzpatrick *et al.* 2009b). In attempts to prevent the formation or mitigate acid sulfate soils; a bank was constructed at the Narrung Narrows and a regulator constructed at Clayton (Figure 1). Water was pumped from Lake Alexandrina into Lake Albert at Narrung and the Goolwa Channel at Clayton to maintain higher water levels in Lake Albert and Goolwa Channel. In addition, flows from the Finnis River and Tookayerta and Currency Creeks will be impounded by the Clayton regulator and prevented from flowing into Lake Alexandrina to maintain water levels after pumping has ceased. The aforementioned structures have disconnected Lake Albert and Goolwa Channel from Lake Alexandrina and water levels are now held at higher levels in the aforementioned waterbodies.

The absence of flows over the barrages (Figure 4) and continued dredging to keep the Murray Mouth open has resulted in almost constant marine salinities in the Murray Estuary and further salt inputs into the North and South Lagoons of the Coorong (Brookes *et al.* 2009).

3.1. Gorge (Lock 1 to Mannum)

Nicol (2010) undertook understorey vegetation and *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* condition surveys in six gorge wetlands between Mannum and Lock 1 (Mannum Swamps, Lake Carlet, Caurnamont, Wongulla Lagoon, Devon Downs North and Noonawirra) in spring 2008 and autumn 2009. The current condition of vegetation in the gorge section was determined by comparing information from Nicol (2010) and the River Murray Wetlands baseline surveys (Holt *et al.* 2005; Nicol *et al.* 2006; Weedon *et al.* 2006; Marsland and Nicol 2007; Marsland and Nicol 2008).

The major change in the plant community since 2007 between Lock 1 and Mannum is the complete disappearance of submergent and floating species from wetlands due to desiccation of floodplain wetlands. Extensive beds of *Vallisneria spiralis*, *Potamogeton crispus*, *Potamogeton*

tricarinatus, *Azolla filiculoides* and the amphibious fluctuation responder-plastic species *Myriophyllum verrucosum* that were present in wetlands throughout the gorge section (Holt *et al.* 2005; Nicol *et al.* 2006; Weedon *et al.* 2006; Marsland and Nicol 2007; Marsland and Nicol 2008) (Appendix 2a) have completely disappeared and there has been no observed colonisation of these species (except *Azolla filiculoides*) in the main channel (Table 3) (Marsland *et al.* 2010; Nicol 2010). In addition to the loss of submergents, the amphibious and floodplain herb and grass communities that were present in the littoral zone (Holt *et al.* 2005; Nicol *et al.* 2006; Weedon *et al.* 2006; Marsland and Nicol 2007; Marsland and Nicol 2008), were not observed by Nicol (2010) in spring 2008 or autumn 2009 (Table 3).

The large stands of *Phragmites australis* that were present prior to 2007 along the banks of the River Murray and around the edges of wetlands (Holt *et al.* 2005; Nicol *et al.* 2006; Weedon *et al.* 2006; Marsland and Nicol 2007; Marsland and Nicol 2008; Marsland *et al.* 2010) (Appendix 2a) still remained and appeared to be in good condition and growing (Marsland *et al.* 2010; Nicol 2010). The *Typha* spp. and *Schoenoplectus validus* stands, whilst live plants were present, showed reduced extent and appeared to be in poor condition (Marsland *et al.* 2010; Nicol 2010).

Terrestrial dry species such as *Atriplex* spp., *Enchylaena tomentosa*, *Teucrium racemosum* and *Einadia nutans*, which were historically only present on the floodplain above historical pool level (Holt *et al.* 2005; Nicol *et al.* 2006; Weedon *et al.* 2006; Marsland and Nicol 2007; Marsland and Nicol 2008) had colonised the dry wetland beds (Nicol 2010). However, large numbers of healthy *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* saplings were also present on the dry wetland bed that had recruited as a result of low water levels (Nicol 2010).

Eucalyptus camaldulensis condition, despite the low water levels, was predominantly good to excellent in the surveyed wetlands prior to 2007 (Weedon *et al.* 2006; Marsland and Nicol 2007; Marsland and Nicol 2008) and in 2008-09; however, canopy density was generally lower in autumn 2009 than in spring 2008 (Nicol 2010). It is unknown whether this result was a seasonal pattern or the early stages of a decline in condition (Nicol 2010).

Table 3: Species present (and functional group) in the 2005 (Nicol *et al.* 2006; Weedon *et al.* 2006), 2006 (Marsland and Nicol 2007) and 2007 (Marsland and Nicol 2008) River Murray Wetlands Baseline Surveys not recorded in the Lock 1 Wetlands draw down monitoring (Nicol 2010) (*denotes exotic species, #denotes listed as rare in South Australia).

| Species | Functional Group |
|--|--|
| <i>Alternanthera denticulata</i> | Floodplain |
| <i>Ammannia multiflora</i> | Floodplain |
| <i>Centipeda minima</i> | Floodplain |
| <i>Epaltes australis</i> | Floodplain |
| <i>Eragrostis australasica</i> | Floodplain |
| <i>Haloragis aspera</i> | Floodplain |
| <i>Lachnagrostis filiformis</i> | Floodplain |
| <i>Lythrum hyssopifolia</i> | Floodplain |
| <i>Morgania floribunda</i> | Floodplain |
| <i>Polygonum plebium</i> | Floodplain |
| <i>Psuedognaphalium luteo-album</i> | Floodplain |
| <i>Rhodanthe pygmaeum</i> | Floodplain |
| <i>Swainsona swainsonoides</i> | Floodplain |
| <i>Wahlenbergia fluminalis</i> | Floodplain |
| <i>Cyperus exaltatus</i> | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-emergent |
| <i>Juncus usitatus</i> | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-emergent |
| <i>Limosella australis</i> | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-low growing |
| <i>Cotula coronopifolia</i> * | Amphibious fluctuation responder-plastic |
| <i>Hydrocotyle verticillata</i> | Amphibious fluctuation responder-plastic |
| <i>Ludwigia peploides</i> spp. <i>montevideensis</i> | Amphibious fluctuation responder-plastic |
| <i>Marsilea drummondii</i> | Amphibious fluctuation responder-plastic |
| <i>Myriophyllum papillosum</i> # | Amphibious fluctuation responder-plastic |
| <i>Myriophyllum verrucosum</i> | Amphibious fluctuation responder-plastic |
| <i>Nymphaea</i> sp.* | Amphibious fluctuation responder-plastic |
| <i>Ranunculus scleratus</i> * | Amphibious fluctuation responder-plastic |
| <i>Rumex bidens</i> | Amphibious fluctuation responder-plastic |
| <i>Rumex crispus</i> * | Amphibious fluctuation responder-plastic |
| <i>Berula erecta</i> | Emergent |
| <i>Bolboschoenus caldwellii</i> | Emergent |
| <i>Eleocharis acuta</i> | Emergent |
| <i>Eleocharis sphacelata</i> | Emergent |
| <i>Schoenoplectus validus</i> | Emergent |
| <i>Triglochin procerum</i> | Emergent |
| <i>Azolla filiculoides</i> | Floating |
| <i>Lepilaena australis</i> | Submergent r-selected |
| <i>Nitella</i> sp. | Submergent r-selected |
| <i>Ceratophyllum demersum</i> # | Submergent k-selected |
| <i>Potamogeton crispus</i> | Submergent k-selected |
| <i>Potamogeton tricarinatus</i> | Submergent k-selected |
| <i>Vallisneria spiralis</i> | Submergent k-selected |

3.2. Lower Swamps (Mannum to Wellington)

No vegetation surveys of Lower Swamps wetlands have been undertaken since the 2004 (Holt *et al.* 2005) and 2005 (Nicol *et al.* 2006) River Murray Wetlands Baseline Surveys. However, the same changes observed in the gorge section wetlands probably occurred in the Lower Swamps. Submergent and floating species would be completely absent, amphibious, emergent and terrestrial damp species would have declined in abundance and terrestrial dry species (probably predominantly agricultural weeds and pasture species) colonised the wetland beds (it is unknown whether large numbers of *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* saplings have recruited in response to the draw down or whether the stands of *Typha* spp. and *Phragmites australis* have survived).

Similarly no vegetation surveys of the River Murray main channel have been undertaken since 2007; however, Marsland *et al.* (2010) undertook habitat assessments during electrofishing surveys in autumn 2008 that involved recording percentage cover of all plant species in an electrofishing shot (*sensu* Zampatti *et al.* 2006a; Zampatti *et al.* 2006b). No submergent or amphibious species were recorded between Mannum and Wellington in the main channel and the littoral plant community was predominantly *Salix* spp. with localised patches of *Typha* spp. and *Phragmites australis* (Marsland *et al.* 2010).

3.3. Lower Lakes (Lakes Alexandrina and Albert and the Lower Finnis River and Currency Creek)

Marsland and Nicol (2009) and Nicol and Marsland (2010) undertook vegetation surveys in spring 2008, autumn 2009 and spring 2009 as part of the vegetation condition monitoring for the Lower Lakes for the Living Murray Initiative. In addition, Marsland and Nicol (2009) determined the age class structure for *Melaleuca balmaturorum* stands at Goat Island, Hunters Creek, Hindmarsh Island, Salt Lagoon and Kennedy Bay. The current condition of the vegetation in the Lower Lakes and how it has changed in recent years was determined by comparing data from the aforementioned studies with the 2004 (Holt *et al.* 2005) and 2005 (Nicol *et al.* 2006) River Murray Wetlands baseline surveys.

Similar to the gorge and lower swamps the major change in the vegetation community Lake Alexandrina upstream of the Clayton regulator and Lake Albert is the loss of submergent species and colonisation of terrestrial dry (e.g. *Pennisetum clandestinum*, *Enchylaena tomentosa*, *Einadia nutans*) and salt tolerant taxa (e.g. *Sarcocornia quinqueflora*, *Cotula coronopifolia*, *Eragrostis curvula*) due to the desiccation and (in some cases) salinisation of the fringing wetlands or sheltered areas (Table 4) (Marsland and Nicol 2009). Submergent species were not observed in the inundated areas of

Lake Alexandrina or Lake Albert (Marsland and Nicol 2009). However, downstream of the Clayton regulator where water levels are higher (DWLBC 2010) and the fringing habitats are inundated, *Ruppia* spp., *Potamogeton pectinatus*, *Potamogeton crispus*, *Ceratophyllum demersum* and *Myriophyllum* spp. have been observed (J. Nicol pers. obs.).

The extensive *Phragmites australis* stands and *Muehlenbeckia florulenta* and samphire shrublands that were present around the edges of Lake Alexandrina and Lake Albert are still present and in many areas have expanded their distribution down the elevation to colonise areas of dry lakebed (Marsland and Nicol 2009). *Typha* spp. and *Schoenoplectus validus* stands, whilst live plants were present, showed reduced extent and appeared to be in poor condition (Marsland and Nicol 2009). Downstream of the Clayton regulator the stands of Emergent species (*Typha* spp. and *Phragmites australis*) were growing and appeared to be in excellent condition (J. Nicol pers. obs.) despite surface water conductivity in excess of 15,000 EC (DWLBC 2010).

The area of *Melaleuca balmaturorum* stands did not change significantly between 2003 and 2008 and recruitment was observed in Dunns Lagoon, Kennedy Bay, Goose Island and Salt Lagoon (Marsland and Nicol 2009). The recruitment observed in Dunns Lagoon and Kennedy Bay was due to low water levels (*sensu* Nicol and Ganf 2000), on Goose Island juveniles were only observed in areas that had been mowed and in Salt Lagoon in an area that had been burned in summer 2007-08 (Marsland and Nicol 2009). No juveniles were recorded at Hunters Creek and Hindmarsh Island and the stands were dominated by old trees (Marsland and Nicol 2009).

Table 4: Species present (and functional group) in the 2004 (Holt *et al.* 2005) and 2005 (Nicol *et al.* 2006) River Murray Wetlands baseline surveys that were not recorded in the 2008-09 Living Vegetation Murray condition monitoring surveys for the Lower Lakes (Marsland and Nicol 2009) (*denotes exotic species).

| Species | Functional Group |
|---|--|
| <i>Puccinella stricta</i> var. <i>perlaxa</i> | Terrestrial damp |
| <i>Puccinella stricta</i> var. <i>stricta</i> | Terrestrial damp |
| <i>Euphorbia drummondii</i> | Floodplain |
| <i>Lythrum hyssopifolia</i> | Floodplain |
| <i>Crassula helmsii</i> | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-low growing |
| <i>Lilaeopsis polyantha</i> | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-low growing |
| <i>Mimulus repens</i> | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-low growing |
| <i>Triglochin hexagonum</i> | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-low growing |
| <i>Centella asiatica</i> | Amphibious fluctuation responder-plastic |
| <i>Cotula vulgaris</i> var. <i>australasica</i> | Amphibious fluctuation responder-plastic |
| <i>Hydrocotyle verticillata</i> | Amphibious fluctuation responder-plastic |
| <i>Ludwigia peploides</i> ssp. <i>montevidensis</i> | Amphibious fluctuation responder-plastic |
| <i>Myriophyllum caput-medusae</i> | Amphibious fluctuation responder-plastic |
| <i>Myriophyllum salsugineum</i> | Amphibious fluctuation responder-plastic |
| <i>Myriophyllum simulans</i> | Amphibious fluctuation responder-plastic |
| <i>Ranunculus amphitrichus</i> | Amphibious fluctuation responder-plastic |
| <i>Rumex bidens</i> | Amphibious fluctuation responder-plastic |
| <i>Bolboschoenus caldwellii</i> | Emergent |
| <i>Eleocharis acuta</i> | Emergent |
| <i>Azolla filiculoides</i> | Floating |
| <i>Azolla pinnata</i> | Floating |
| <i>Lemna disperma</i> | Floating |
| <i>Spirodela punctata</i> | Floating |
| <i>Batrachium trichophyllum</i> * | Submergent r-selected |
| <i>Lepilaena australis</i> | Submergent r-selected |
| <i>Lepilaena cylindrocarpa</i> | Submergent r-selected |
| <i>Ruppia polycarpa</i> | Submergent r-selected |
| <i>Ruppia tuberosa</i> | Submergent r-selected |
| <i>Potamogeton pectinatus</i> | Submergent k-selected |
| <i>Ruppia megacarpa</i> | Submergent k-selected |
| <i>Vallisneria spiralis</i> | Submergent k-selected |

3.4. Murray Estuary (Goolwa to Tauwitschere)

There has been no significant change in the submergent community of the Murray Estuary since 2007. The salinity has remained at or close to marine salinity (due to the continual dredging of the Murray Mouth) and there has been no recruitment of marine plants (Brookes *et al.* 2009). The littoral vegetation also probably has not changed significantly; however, no studies relating to the littoral vegetation of the Murray Estuary have been published in recent years.

3.5. Coorong Lagoons

The major change in the submergent vegetation in the Coorong has been the disappearance of *Ruppia tuberosa* from all but the northern quarter of the South Lagoon and expansion in

distribution and abundance in the North Lagoon (Brookes *et al.* 2009). No studies relating to the littoral vegetation of the Coorong have been published in recent years; although, the increase in surface water salinity since 2007 has probably extirpated some of the less salt tolerant halophytes (e.g. *Juncus kraussii* (Naidoo and Kift 2006) and may have reduced germination, juvenile survival and seed production in other halophytes (*sensu* Bornman *et al.* 2002; Malcolm *et al.* 2003; Bornman *et al.* 2008; Flowers and Colmer 2008; Song *et al.* 2008).

4. Conclusions

The current drought coupled with river regulation and abstraction have meant the plant communities in the River Murray downstream of Lock 1, the Lower Lakes, Murray Estuary and Coorong have undergone significant changes and continue to change. Upstream of the barrages Submergent and many Amphibious species have been lost from areas where they were historically abundant (except Goolwa Channel) and have not colonised the remnant inundated habitats (Marsland and Nicol 2009; Marsland *et al.* 2010; Nicol 2010), which has significant consequences for regional biodiversity. Terrestrial and salt tolerant species that were restricted to the floodplain and highland have colonised areas that were previously permanently inundated (Marsland and Nicol 2009, Nicol and Marsland 2010; Nicol 2010). *Phragmites australis* stands, *Muehlenbeckia florulenta* shrublands, samphire shrublands, *Melaleuca balmaturorum* woodlands and *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* woodlands were (at the time of writing) generally in good condition, actively growing, flowering and in some cases colonising areas of dry wetland (Marsland and Nicol 2009; Nicol 2010). The less desiccation tolerant fringing species (*Typha* spp. *Bolboschoenus* spp. and *Schoenoplectus validus*) (Roberts and Marston 2000) were generally present but in poorer condition (Marsland and Nicol 2009; Nicol 2010). Despite the good condition of much of the fringing vegetation it is unknown how long these communities will remain in good condition, what processes maintain these communities in the absence of surface water (i.e. groundwater) and whether they play the same role in the ecosystem as hydrologically connected communities.

Despite desiccation, acidification and increased salinity, the plant community in Lower Lakes appears to be resilient. Fringing habitats in Goolwa Channel that had been colonised by terrestrial and salt tolerant species in autumn 2009 (Marsland and Nicol 2009; Nicol and Marsland 2010) were inundated in spring 2009 with water that had a conductivity of 10,000 EC (J. Nicol unpublished data). In January 2010 Submergent (e.g. *Ceratophyllum demersum*) and Amphibious (*Myriophyllum* spp.) freshwater species had colonised the fringing habitats and *Typha* spp. and *Phragmites australis* stands were actively growing and appeared to be very healthy despite a surface water conductivity of 15,000 EC (J. Nicol pers. obs.). The surface water salinity at the time of writing exceeds the upper salinity thresholds for *Typha domingensis* and *Ceratophyllum*

demersum (Hart *et al.* 1991; Bailey *et al.* 2002), which are both abundant and appear to be in good condition in Goolwa Channel (J. Nicol pers. obs.). It is unknown whether the Lower Lakes populations of these species have higher salinity thresholds or whether they are using a fresher water source such as groundwater.

Downstream of the barrages in the Murray Estuary there has been very little if any change in the plant community which is probably due to constant marine salinity (Brookes *et al.* 2009). The system appears to have reached a stable state and whether the submergent plant community observed in the 1980s and 1990s (Geddes and Butler 1984; Geddes and Hall 1990; Edyvane *et al.* 1996) will return if a variable salinity regime is reinstated, is unknown.

In contrast to the Murray Estuary the Submergent plant communities in the North and South Lagoons of the Coorong are in a state of change. There has been a significant decline in the distribution and abundance of *Ruppia tuberosa* in the South Lagoon but an increase in the North Lagoon, which is probably due to increases in salinity (Womersley 1975; Geddes and Brock 1977; Paton 1982; Geddes and Hall 1990; Paton 1996; Paton 2000; Paton 2001; Paton *et al.* 2001; Paton and Bolton 2001; Paton 2002; Paton 2003; Nicol 2005; Paton 2005a; Paton 2005b; Paton and Rogers 2008; Brookes *et al.* 2009). To restore *Ruppia tuberosa* populations in the South Lagoon, significant engineering works and pumping may be required (in addition to barrage outflows) to reduce the salinity in the South Lagoon to enable *Ruppia tuberosa* to recolonise (Brookes *et al.* 2009).

4.1. Knowledge Gaps

The current conditions in the River Murray downstream of Lock 1, Lower Lakes, Murray Estuary and Coorong brought about by the combination of drought and over allocation have never been encountered and there is little information available regarding the response of plant communities to similar conditions.

Key knowledge gaps include:

- Impact of acid and heavy metals on propagule survival.
- Impact of acid and heavy metals on germination, recruitment and colonisation of aquatic plants.
- Mechanisms of recovery (i.e. how important is the resident propagule bank versus other mechanisms such as hydrochory, zoochory).
- Impacts of acid sulfate soil remediation (e.g. liming, bioremediation) on aquatic plant recruitment.

-
- Potential for regeneration from the resident propagule bank in the Lower Lakes upstream of the Clayton regulator and River Murray wetlands between Wellington and Lock 1.
 - Differences in ecosystem services provided by disconnected (but otherwise in good condition) habitats (e.g. samphire shrublands, *Muehlenbeckia florulenta* shrublands, reed beds), compared with the same habitats that are hydrologically connected to a water body.
 - Salinity thresholds for key life history stages (e.g. flowering and seed set, juvenile growth and survival, germination) for halophytes to determine freshwater requirements.
 - Age structure of hydrologically disconnected samphire communities.
 - Medium to long-term persistence of hydrologically disconnected fringing communities.
 - Processes that influence the condition of fringing communities.
 - Identification of important fish, bird and macroinvertebrate habitat.
 - Salinity tolerances of the local populations of key macrophytes such as *Typha* spp., *Ceratophyllum demersum*, *Myriophyllum* spp., *Phragmites australis* and *Potamogeton* spp.
 - What is the capacity for the system to recover, how long will the system remain resilient and what factors compromise or enhance resilience.
 - Impacts (e.g. relative growth rate, seed production, turion production) of sub-lethal salinities on *Ruppia megacarpa* and *Ruppia tuberosa*.
 - Freshwater requirements to maintain *Ruppia megacarpa* populations.

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6. Appendices

Appendix 1: Plant species list (Womersley 1975; Paton 1982; Pressey 1986; Thompson 1986; Geddes 1987; Renfrey *et al.* 1989; Brandle *et al.* 2002; Seaman 2003; Holt *et al.* 2005; Nicol *et al.* 2006; Weedon *et al.* 2006; Marsland and Nicol 2007; Marsland and Nicol 2008; Marsland and Nicol 2009; Stewart *et al.* 2009; Marsland *et al.* 2010; Nicol 2010; Nicol and Marsland 2010) of the River Murray downstream of Lock 1, the Lower Lakes, Murray Estuary and Coorong with functional classification (*sensu* Brock and Casanova 1997), salinity tolerance or salinity tolerance group (if known) and regions where species were recorded (*denotes exotic species, # denotes listed as rare in South Australia).

| Species | Functional Group | Salinity Tolerance | Gorge | Lower Swamps | Lower Lakes | Murray Estuary | Coorong | References |
|---|---|--|-------|--------------|-------------|----------------|---------|-----------------------------|
| <i>Acacia stenophylla</i> | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-woody | Moderate | * | | | | | (Marcar <i>et al.</i> 2000) |
| <i>Agapanthus praecox</i> * | Terrestrial dry | Unknown | | | * | | | |
| <i>Alternanthera denticulata</i> | Floodplain | Unknown | * | | | | | |
| <i>Ammania multiflora</i> | Floodplain | Unknown | * | | | | | |
| <i>Amyema melaleucae</i> | NA: Mistletoe | Unknown | | | * | * | * | |
| <i>Amyema preissii</i> | NA: Mistletoe | Unknown | * | | | | | |
| <i>Apium graveolens</i> * | Terrestrial damp | Unknown | * | * | | | | |
| <i>Apium prostratum</i> ssp. <i>prostratum</i> | Terrestrial damp | Unknown | * | | | | | |
| <i>Arctotheca calendula</i> * | Terrestrial dry | Unknown | * | * | * | | | |
| <i>Asperula gemella</i> | Terrestrial damp | Unknown | * | * | | | | |
| <i>Asphodelus fistulosus</i> * | Terrestrial dry | Unknown | * | * | | | | |
| <i>Aster subulatus</i> * | Terrestrial damp | Moderate-at least 18,000 mg ^l ⁻¹ | * | * | * | | | (Bailey <i>et al.</i> 2002) |
| <i>Atriplex cinerea</i> | Terrestrial dry | Unknown | | | * | | | |
| <i>Atriplex leptocarpa</i> | Terrestrial dry | Unknown | * | | | | | |
| <i>Atriplex lindleyi</i> ssp. <i>lindleyi</i> | Terrestrial dry | Unknown | * | | | | | |
| <i>Atriplex nummularia</i> | Terrestrial dry | Moderate | * | * | | | | (Jessop and Tolken 1986) |
| <i>Atriplex paludosa</i> | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-emergent | High | * | | * | * | * | (Jessop and Tolken 1986) |
| <i>Atriplex paludosa</i> ssp. <i>cordata</i> | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-emergent | High | | | * | | | (Jessop and Tolken 1986) |
| <i>Atriplex paludosa</i> ssp. <i>paludosa</i> | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-emergent | High | | | * | | | (Jessop and Tolken 1986) |
| <i>Atriplex prostrata</i> * | Terrestrial damp | Moderate-30,000 mg ^l ⁻¹ | * | * | * | | | (Wardle 1991) |
| <i>Atriplex semibaccata</i> | Terrestrial dry | Unknown | * | * | * | | | |
| <i>Atriplex stipitata</i> | Terrestrial dry | Unknown | * | * | * | | | |
| <i>Atriplex suberecta</i> | Floodplain | Unknown | * | * | | | | |
| <i>Atriplex vesicaria</i> | Terrestrial dry | Unknown | * | | | | | |
| <i>Austrostipa puberula</i> | Terrestrial dry | Unknown | | | * | | | |
| <i>Austrostipa stipoides</i> | Terrestrial dry | Unknown | | * | * | | | |
| <i>Avena barbata</i> * | Terrestrial dry | Unknown | * | * | * | | | |
| <i>Azolla filiculoides</i> | Floating | Low-4,400 mg ^l ⁻¹ | * | * | * | | | (Bailey <i>et al.</i> 2002) |
| <i>Azolla pinnata</i> | Floating | Low-1,100 mg ^l ⁻¹ | * | * | * | | | (Bailey <i>et al.</i> 2002) |
| <i>Batrachium trichophyllum</i> * | Submergent r-selected | Unknown | | | * | | | |
| <i>Berula erecta</i> * | Emergent | Unknown | * | * | * | | | |
| <i>Bolboschoenus caldwellii</i> | Emergent | Moderate-25,000 mg ^l ⁻¹ | * | * | * | * | | (Bailey <i>et al.</i> 2002) |
| <i>Bolboschoenus medianus</i> | Emergent | Moderate-28,000 mg ^l ⁻¹ | | * | * | * | | (Bailey <i>et al.</i> 2002) |
| <i>Brachycome lineariloba</i> | Floodplain | Unknown | * | | | | | |
| <i>Brachycome basaltica</i> | Floodplain | Unknown | * | | | | | |
| <i>Brassica rapa</i> * | Terrestrial dry | Unknown | * | * | * | | | |
| <i>Brassica tournfortii</i> * | Terrestrial dry | Unknown | * | * | * | | | |
| <i>Briza minor</i> | Terrestrial dry | Unknown | | * | * | | | |
| <i>Bromus catharticus</i> * | Terrestrial dry | Unknown | * | * | * | | | |
| <i>Bromus diandrus</i> * | Terrestrial dry | Unknown | * | * | * | | | |
| <i>Bromus hordeaceus</i> ssp. <i>hordeaceus</i> | Terrestrial dry | Unknown | * | * | * | | | |
| <i>Bromus hordeaceus</i> * | Terrestrial dry | Unknown | * | * | * | | | |
| <i>Bromus molliformis</i> * | Terrestrial dry | Unknown | * | * | | | | |

| Species | Functional Group | Salinity Tolerance | Gorge | Lower Swamps | Lower Lakes | Murray Estuary | Coorong | References |
|--|--|---|-------|--------------|-------------|----------------|---------|---|
| <i>Bromus rubens</i> * | Terrestrial dry | Unknown | * | * | | | | |
| <i>Bromus unioloides</i> * | Terrestrial dry | Unknown | * | | * | | | |
| <i>Bupleurum semicompositum</i> * | Terrestrial damp | Unknown | * | | | | | |
| <i>Callistemon brachyandrus</i> # | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-woody | Unknown | * | | | | | |
| <i>Calotis hispidula</i> | Floodplain | Unknown | * | | | | | |
| <i>Calystegia sepium</i> | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-emergent | Moderate-10,000 mg ^l ⁻¹ | * | * | * | | | (Stutzenbaker 1996) |
| <i>Carex apressa</i> | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-emergent | Unknown | * | * | * | | | |
| <i>Carex fascicularis</i> | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-emergent | Unknown | | * | * | | | |
| <i>Carpobrotus rossii</i> | Terrestrial dry | High | * | * | * | * | * | (Jessop and Tolken 1986) |
| <i>Carrichtera annua</i> * | Terrestrial dry | Unknown | * | * | | | | |
| <i>Centaurea calcitrapa</i> * | Terrestrial damp | Unknown | * | * | * | | | |
| <i>Centaurium tenuiflorum</i> * | Terrestrial damp | Unknown | * | * | * | | | |
| <i>Centella asiatica</i> | Amphibious fluctuation responder-plastic | Low-3,500 mg ^l ⁻¹ | | * | * | | | (Stutzenbaker 1996) |
| <i>Centipeda minima</i> | Floodplain | Unknown | * | | | | | |
| <i>Ceratophyllum demersum</i> # | Submergent k-selected | Moderate-at least 8,000 mg ^l ⁻¹ | * | * | * | | | J. Nicol pers. obs. |
| <i>Chenopodium album</i> * | Terrestrial damp | Unknown | * | * | * | | | |
| <i>Chenopodium curvispicatum</i> | Terrestrial dry | Unknown | | * | | | | |
| <i>Chenopodium glaucum</i> * | Terrestrial damp | Unknown | * | * | * | | | |
| <i>Chenopodium pumilio</i> | Floodplain | Unknown | * | * | | | | |
| <i>Chloris tuncata</i> | Terrestrial dry | Unknown | * | * | * | | | |
| <i>Cirsium vulgare</i> * | Terrestrial damp | Unknown | * | * | * | | | |
| <i>Cladium procerum</i> | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-emergent | Moderate | | | * | | | (Jessop and Tolken 1986) |
| <i>Clematis microphylla</i> var. <i>microphylla</i> | Terrestrial dry | Unknown | | | * | | | |
| <i>Convolvulus arvensis</i> * | Terrestrial damp | Unknown | | * | | | | |
| <i>Convolvulus erubescens</i> | Terrestrial damp | Unknown | | | * | | | |
| <i>Coryza bonariensis</i> * | Terrestrial damp | Unknown | * | * | * | | | |
| <i>Cotula bipinnata</i> * | Amphibious fluctuation responder-plastic | Unknown | * | * | * | | | |
| <i>Cotula coronopifolia</i> * | Amphibious fluctuation responder-plastic | High-36,000 mg ^l ⁻¹ | * | * | * | | | (Bailey <i>et al.</i> 2002) |
| <i>Cotula vulgaris</i> var. <i>australasica</i> | Amphibious fluctuation responder-plastic | High | * | * | * | | | J. Nicol pers. obs. |
| <i>Craspedia uniflora</i> | Terrestrial dry | Unknown | * | | | | | |
| <i>Crassula colorata</i> var. <i>acuminata</i> | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-low growing | Unknown | * | | | | | |
| <i>Crassula helmsii</i> | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-low growing | Moderate-10,000 mg ^l ⁻¹ | * | * | * | | | |
| <i>Cressa cretica</i> | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-emergent | High | * | | | | | (Jessop and Tolken 1986) |
| <i>Critesion marinum</i> * | Terrestrial dry | High | * | * | * | * | | http://www.dpi.vic.gov.au/DPI/Vro/vrosite.nsf/pages/water_sss_sea_barley |
| <i>Cucumis myriocarpus</i> * | Terrestrial dry | Unknown | * | | | | | |
| <i>Cynodon dactylon</i> * | Terrestrial dry | High-35,000 mg ^l ⁻¹ | * | * | * | | | |
| <i>Cyperus exaltatus</i> | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-emergent | Unknown | * | * | * | | | |
| <i>Cyperus gunnii</i> ssp. <i>gunnii</i> | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-emergent | Unknown | | | * | | | |
| <i>Cyperus gymnocaulos</i> | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-emergent | Moderate-25,000 mg ^l ⁻¹ | * | * | * | | | Bailey <i>et al.</i> 1992 |
| <i>Danthonia caespitosa</i> | Terrestrial dry | Unknown | * | | | | | |
| <i>Dianella brevicaulis</i> | Terrestrial dry | Unknown | | | * | | | |
| <i>Dianella revoluta</i> | Terrestrial dry | Unknown | | * | | | | |
| <i>Disphyma crassifolium</i> ssp. <i>clavellatum</i> | Terrestrial dry | High | | | * | * | * | (Jessop and Tolken 1986), J. Nicol pers. obs. |
| <i>Distichlis distichophylla</i> | Terrestrial damp | High | * | * | * | * | | (Jessop and Tolken 1986), J. Nicol pers. obs. |
| <i>Dittrichia graveolens</i> * | Terrestrial damp | Unknown | * | | | | | |
| <i>Dodonaea attenuata</i> | Terrestrial dry | Unknown | * | | | | | |
| <i>Echinochloa crus-galli</i> * | Terrestrial damp | Unknown | * | | | | | |
| <i>Echium plantagineum</i> * | Terrestrial dry | Unknown | * | * | | | | |
| <i>Eclipta platyglossa</i> | Terrestrial damp | Unknown | * | | | | | |
| <i>Ehrharta longiflora</i> * | Terrestrial damp | Unknown | * | * | * | | | |
| <i>Einadia nutans</i> ssp. <i>nutans</i> | Terrestrial dry | Unknown | * | * | | | | |
| <i>Eleocharis acuta</i> | Emergent | Moderate-at least 7,000 mg ^l ⁻¹ | * | * | * | | | |
| <i>Eleocharis gracilis</i> | Emergent | Unknown | * | * | * | | | |
| <i>Eleocharis sphacelata</i> | Emergent | Low | * | * | * | | | J. Nicol pers. obs. |

| Species | Functional Group | Salinity Tolerance | Gorge | Lower Swamps | Lower Lakes | Murray Estuary | Coorong | References |
|---|--|--|-------|--------------|-------------|----------------|---------|---|
| <i>Enchylaena tomentosa</i> var. <i>tomentosa</i> | Terrestrial dry | Moderate | * | * | * | | | (Jessop and Tolken 1986) |
| <i>Epaltes australis</i> | Floodplain | Unknown | * | * | | | | |
| <i>Epaltes cunninghamii</i> | Floodplain | Unknown | * | * | * | | | |
| <i>Epilobium pallidiflorum</i> | Terrestrial damp | Unknown | * | * | * | | | |
| <i>Eragrostis australasica</i> | Floodplain | Unknown | * | * | | | | |
| <i>Eragrostis curvula</i> * | Terrestrial damp | High | * | * | * | * | | (Jessop <i>et al.</i> 2006), J. Nicol pers. obs. |
| <i>Eragrostis dielsii</i> | Floodplain | Unknown | * | * | * | | | |
| <i>Eragrostis lacunaria</i> | Floodplain | Unknown | * | | | | | |
| <i>Eremophila divaricata</i> | Terrestrial dry | Unknown | * | | | | | |
| <i>Eremophila scoparia</i> # | Terrestrial dry | Unknown | * | | | | | |
| <i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i> var. <i>camaldulensis</i> | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-woody | Moderate-20,000 EC | * | * | | | | Bailey <i>et al.</i> 1992 |
| <i>Eucalyptus largiflorens</i> | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-woody | Moderate-40,000 EC | * | * | | | | Bailey <i>et al.</i> 1992 |
| <i>Euphorbia drummondii</i> | Floodplain | Unknown | * | * | * | | | |
| <i>Euphorbia tannensis</i> | Terrestrial dry | High | * | | | | | J. Nicol pers. obs. |
| <i>Euphorbia terracina</i> * | Terrestrial dry | High | * | * | * | | | J. Nicol pers. obs. |
| <i>Festuca arundinacea</i> | Terrestrial damp | Moderate | | * | * | | | J. Nicol pers. obs. |
| <i>Foeniculum vulgare</i> * | Terrestrial damp | Low | * | * | * | | | (Cunningham <i>et al.</i> 1981) |
| <i>Frankenia pauciflora</i> var. <i>gunnii</i> | Terrestrial dry | High | * | * | * | | | (Cunningham <i>et al.</i> 1981) |
| <i>Frankenia serpyllifolia</i> | Terrestrial dry | High | | | * | * | | (Cunningham <i>et al.</i> 1981) |
| <i>Fraxinus rotundifolia</i> ssp. <i>rotundifolia</i> * | Terrestrial dry | Low | * | | | | | (Cunningham <i>et al.</i> 1981) |
| <i>Fumaria bastardii</i> * | Terrestrial damp | Low | * | * | * | | | (Cunningham <i>et al.</i> 1981) |
| <i>Fumaria capreolata</i> ssp. <i>capreolata</i> * | Terrestrial damp | Low | | * | | | | (Cunningham <i>et al.</i> 1981) |
| <i>Gahnia filum</i> | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-emergent | High | | * | * | | | (Jessop and Tolken 1986) |
| <i>Galenia secunda</i> * | Terrestrial dry | High | * | * | * | | | (Garcia-de-Lomas <i>et al.</i> 2009) |
| <i>Gazania linearis</i> | Terrestrial dry | High | * | | | | | J. Nicol pers. obs. |
| <i>Glyceria australis</i> | Emergent | Unknown | | | * | | | |
| <i>Haloragis aspera</i> | Floodplain | Unknown | * | | | | | |
| <i>Halosarcia pergranulata</i> ssp. <i>pergranulata</i> | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-emergent | High-46,750 mg ^l ⁻¹ | * | * | * | * | * | (Short and Colmer 1999) |
| <i>Helichrysum scorpioides</i> | Terrestrial dry | Unknown | * | | | | | |
| <i>Heliotropium curassavicum</i> * | Floodplain | High | * | * | | | | (Cunningham <i>et al.</i> 1981) |
| <i>Heliotropium europaeum</i> * | Floodplain | Unknown | * | | | | | |
| <i>Hemichroa pentandra</i> | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-emergent | High | | | * | * | | (Brandle <i>et al.</i> 2002) |
| <i>Holcus lanatus</i> * | Terrestrial damp | Unknown | | * | * | | | |
| <i>Hydrocotyle verticillata</i> | Amphibious fluctuation responder-plastic | Unknown | * | * | * | | | |
| <i>Hypochoeris glabra</i> * | Terrestrial dry | Unknown | * | * | * | | | |
| <i>Hypochoeris radicata</i> * | Terrestrial dry | Unknown | * | * | * | | | |
| <i>Ipomoea indica</i> * | Terrestrial damp | Unknown | * | * | * | | | |
| <i>Isachne globosa</i> | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-emergent | Unknown | | | * | | | |
| <i>Isolepis cernua</i> | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-low growing | Moderate-30,000 mg ^l ⁻¹ | | | * | | | (Wardle 1991) |
| <i>Isolepis fluitans</i> | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-low growing | Unknown | | * | | | | |
| <i>Isolepis inundata</i> | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-low growing | Unknown | * | * | * | | | |
| <i>Isolepis hookeriana</i> | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-low growing | Unknown | * | | | | | |
| <i>Isolepis nodosa</i> | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-emergent | High | | * | * | * | * | (Jessop and Tolken 1986), J. Nicol per. obs. |
| <i>Juncus acutus</i> * | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-emergent | High-at least 40,000 mg ^l ⁻¹ | | * | * | * | | (Greenwood 2008; Greenwood and MacFarlane 2009) |
| <i>Juncus aridicola</i> | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-emergent | Unknown | * | * | | | | |
| <i>Juncus articulatus</i> * | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-emergent | Unknown | | * | | | | |
| <i>Juncus caespiticius</i> | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-emergent | Unknown | | | * | | | |
| <i>Juncus kraussii</i> | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-emergent | Moderate-28,000 mg ^l ⁻¹ | * | * | * | * | * | (Clarke and Hannon 1970; Naidoo and Kift 2006) |
| <i>Juncus pallidus</i> | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-emergent | High | * | * | * | | | (Jessop and Tolken 1986) |
| <i>Juncus pauciflorus</i> | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-emergent | Unknown | | | * | | | |
| <i>Juncus sarophorus</i> | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-emergent | Unknown | | | * | | | |
| <i>Juncus usitatus</i> | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-emergent | Moderate | | | | | | http://www.anbg.gov.au/cpbr/WfHC/Juncus-usitatus/index.html |
| <i>Lachnagrostis filiformis</i> | Floodplain | Unknown | * | * | * | | | |
| <i>Lactuca saligna</i> * | Terrestrial dry | Unknown | * | * | * | | | |

| Species | Functional Group | Salinity Tolerance | Gorge | Lower Swamps | Lower Lakes | Murray Estuary | Coorong | References |
|--|--|------------------------------------|-------|--------------|-------------|----------------|---------|-------------------------------|
| <i>Lactuca serriola</i> * | Terrestrial dry | Unknown | * | * | * | | | |
| <i>Lagunaria patersonii</i> * | Terrestrial dry | Unknown | | | * | | | |
| <i>Lagurus ovatus</i> * | Terrestrial dry | Unknown | | * | * | * | | |
| <i>Lamarckia aurea</i> * | Terrestrial dry | Unknown | * | | | | | |
| <i>Lamprothamnium papulosum</i> | Submergent r-selected | High-210,000 mg l ⁻¹ | | | * | * | * | Bailey <i>et al.</i> 1992 |
| <i>Lawrenca squamata</i> | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-emergent | High | | | * | * | * | (Jessop and Tolken 1986) |
| <i>Lemna disperma</i> | Floating | Unknown | * | * | * | | | |
| <i>Lemna minor</i> | Floating | Moderate-10,000 mg l ⁻¹ | * | * | * | | | Bailey <i>et al.</i> 1992 |
| <i>Lepidium africanum</i> * | Terrestrial dry | Unknown | * | | | | | |
| <i>Lepidium bonariensis</i> * | Terrestrial dry | Unknown | * | | * | | | |
| <i>Lepilaena australis</i> | Submergent r-selected | Moderate-11,000 mg l ⁻¹ | * | * | * | | | Bailey <i>et al.</i> 1992 |
| <i>Lepilaena cylindrocarpa</i> | Submergent r-selected | High-103,000 mg l ⁻¹ | | | * | | | Bailey <i>et al.</i> 1992 |
| <i>Leptospermum continentale</i> | Terrestrial dry | Unknown | * | * | * | | | |
| <i>Lilaeopsis polyantha</i> | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-low growing | Moderate | | | * | | | (Jessop and Tolken 1986) |
| <i>Limonium binervosum</i> * | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-low growing | High | | | | * | * | (Brandle <i>et al.</i> 2002) |
| <i>Limosella australis</i> | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-low growing | Unknown | * | | | | | |
| <i>Lolium rigidum</i> * | Terrestrial dry | Moderate | * | * | * | | | (Jessop <i>et al.</i> 2006) |
| <i>Lomandra leucocephala</i> ssp. <i>robusta</i> | Terrestrial dry | Unknown | * | | | | | |
| <i>Ludwigia peploides</i> ssp. <i>montevidensis</i> | Amphibious fluctuation responder-plastic | Unknown | * | * | * | | | |
| <i>Lupinus cosentinii</i> * | Terrestrial dry | Unknown | * | * | | | | |
| <i>Lycium ferocissimum</i> * | Terrestrial dry | High | * | * | * | | | Cunningham <i>et al.</i> 1981 |
| <i>Lycopus australis</i> | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-emergent | Unknown | * | * | * | | | |
| <i>Lysiana exocarpi</i> ssp. <i>exocarpi</i> | NA: Mistletoe | Unknown | * | | | | | |
| <i>Lythrum hyssopifolia</i> | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-emergent | Unknown | * | * | * | | | |
| <i>Lythrum salicaria</i> | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-emergent | Unknown | * | * | * | | | |
| <i>Maireana brevifolia</i> | Terrestrial dry | Unknown | * | | | | | |
| <i>Maireana enchylaenoides</i> | Terrestrial dry | Unknown | * | | | | | |
| <i>Maireana macrocarpa</i> | Terrestrial dry | Unknown | * | | | | | |
| <i>Maireana microcarpa</i> | Terrestrial dry | Unknown | * | | * | | | |
| <i>Maireana oppositifolia</i> | Terrestrial dry | Unknown | | | * | * | * | |
| <i>Malva parviflora</i> * | Terrestrial dry | Moderate | * | * | * | | | (Jessop and Tolken 1986) |
| <i>Marrubium vulgare</i> * | Terrestrial dry | Moderate | * | * | * | | | (Jessop and Tolken 1986) |
| <i>Marsilea drummondii</i> | Amphibious fluctuation responder-plastic | Low-300 mg l ⁻¹ | * | * | * | | | (Aston 1973) |
| <i>Medicago polymorpha</i> var. <i>polymorpha</i> * | Terrestrial dry | Unknown | * | * | * | | | |
| <i>Medicago truncatula</i> * | Terrestrial dry | Unknown | * | * | * | | | |
| <i>Melaleuca halmaturorum</i> ssp. <i>halmaturorum</i> | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-woody | High-44,000 mg l ⁻¹ | | * | * | * | * | (Marcar <i>et al.</i> 1995) |
| <i>Melilotus alba</i> * | Terrestrial dry | Unknown | * | * | | | | |
| <i>Melilotus indica</i> * | Terrestrial dry | Moderate-15,000 mg l ⁻¹ | * | * | * | * | | (Khan and Weber 2006) |
| <i>Mentha australis</i> | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-emergent | Unknown | * | * | * | | | |
| <i>Mentha piperita</i> * | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-emergent | Unknown | * | * | * | | | |
| <i>Mesembryanthemum crystallinum</i> * | Floodplain | High | * | * | | | | Cunningham <i>et al.</i> 1981 |
| <i>Mesembryanthemum nodiflorum</i> * | Floodplain | High | * | | | | | Cunningham <i>et al.</i> 1981 |
| <i>Mimulus repens</i> | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-low growing | Moderate-20,000 mg l ⁻¹ | * | * | * | | | (Wardle 1991) |
| <i>Mollugo cerviana</i> | Floodplain | Unknown | * | | | | | |
| <i>Muehlenbeckia florulenta</i> | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-woody | Moderate | * | * | * | | | Cunningham <i>et al.</i> 1981 |
| <i>Muehlenbeckia gunnii</i> | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-woody | Moderate | | | * | | | Cunningham <i>et al.</i> 1981 |
| <i>Muehlenbeckia horrida</i> | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-woody | Moderate | * | | | | | Cunningham <i>et al.</i> 1981 |
| <i>Myoporum insulare</i> | Terrestrial dry | High | | | * | * | * | Cunningham <i>et al.</i> 1981 |
| <i>Myoporum montanum</i> | Terrestrial dry | Unknown | * | * | * | | | |
| <i>Myoporum parvifolium</i> | Terrestrial dry | Unknown | * | * | * | | | |
| <i>Myriocephalus stuartii</i> | Floodplain | Unknown | * | | | | | |
| <i>Myriophyllum caput-medusae</i> | Amphibious fluctuation responder-plastic | Moderate-at least 10,000 EC | | * | * | | | J. Nicol unpublished data |
| <i>Myriophyllum crispatum</i> | Amphibious fluctuation responder-plastic | Low | * | | | | | (Orchard 1985) |
| <i>Myriophyllum papulosum</i> # | Amphibious fluctuation responder-plastic | Low | * | | | | | (Orchard 1985) |

| Species | Functional Group | Salinity Tolerance | Gorge | Lower Swamps | Lower Lakes | Murray Estuary | Coorong | References |
|--|--|--|-------|--------------|-------------|----------------|---------|---|
| <i>Myriophyllum salsugineum</i> | Amphibious fluctuation responder-plastic | Moderate-at least 15,000 EC | | * | * | | | J. Nicol unpublished data |
| <i>Myriophyllum simulans</i> | Amphibious fluctuation responder-plastic | Low | | * | | | | (Orchard 1985) |
| <i>Myriophyllum verrucosum</i> | Amphibious fluctuation responder-plastic | Low | * | | | | | (Orchard 1985) |
| <i>Myrsiphyllum asparagoides</i> * | Terrestrial dry | Unknown | * | * | | | | |
| <i>Nicotiana glauca</i> * | Terrestrial dry | Unknown | * | | | | | |
| <i>Nicotiana goodspeedii</i> | Terrestrial dry | Unknown | * | | | | | |
| <i>Nitella</i> sp. | Submergent r-selected | Unknown | * | | | | | |
| <i>Nymphaea</i> sp.* | Amphibious fluctuation responder-plastic | Unknown | * | | | | | |
| <i>Olea europaea</i> ssp. <i>europaea</i> * | Terrestrial dry | Moderate | * | | | | | (Jessop and Tolken 1986) |
| <i>Onopordum acanthium</i> * | Terrestrial damp | Unknown | * | * | * | | | |
| <i>Opuntia</i> sp.* | Terrestrial dry | Unknown | * | | | | | |
| <i>Osteocarpum acropterum</i> var. <i>acropterum</i> | Terrestrial dry | Moderate | * | | | | | Cunningham <i>et al.</i> 1981 |
| <i>Oxalis pes-caprae</i> * | Terrestrial dry | Unknown | * | * | * | | | |
| <i>Pachyornis arbuscula</i> | Terrestrial dry | High | | | * | | | Cunningham <i>et al.</i> 1981 |
| <i>Pachyornis triandra</i> | Terrestrial dry | High | * | | | | | Cunningham <i>et al.</i> 1981 |
| <i>Parapholis incurva</i> * | Terrestrial damp | Moderate-31,000 mg l ⁻¹ | * | * | * | * | | (Zedler 2001) |
| <i>Paspalidium jubiflorum</i> | Terrestrial damp | Unknown | * | | | | | |
| <i>Paspalum dilatatum</i> * | Terrestrial damp | Low | | * | * | | | http://www.fao.org/ag/AGP/AGPC/doc/GBASE/DATA/PF000288.HTM |
| <i>Paspalum distichum</i> * | Terrestrial damp | Moderate-14,000 mg l ⁻¹ | * | * | * | | | http://www.fao.org/ag/AGP/AGPC/doc/GBASE/DATA/Pf000289.HTM |
| <i>Paspalum vaginatum</i> * | Terrestrial damp | High-35,000 mg l ⁻¹ | * | * | * | * | | (Lee <i>et al.</i> 2005) |
| <i>Pennisetum clandestinum</i> * | Terrestrial dry | Moderate-13,000 mg l ⁻¹ | * | * | * | | | (Pessaraki and Pessaraki 2007) |
| <i>Persicaria decipiens</i> | Amphibious fluctuation responder-plastic | Unknown | * | * | * | | | |
| <i>Persicaria lapathifolium</i> | Amphibious fluctuation responder-plastic | Unknown | * | * | * | | | |
| <i>Phalaris arundinacea</i> * | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-emergent | Unknown | | * | * | | | |
| <i>Phalaris minor</i> * | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-emergent | Unknown | | * | | | | |
| <i>Phalaris paradoxa</i> * | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-emergent | Unknown | * | | | | | |
| <i>Phragmites australis</i> | Emergent | Moderate-22,500 mg l ⁻¹ | * | * | * | * | * | Bailey <i>et al.</i> 1992 |
| <i>Phyla canescens</i> * | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-low growing | High | * | * | * | | | Cunningham <i>et al.</i> 1981 |
| <i>Picris angustifolia</i> | Terrestrial dry | Unknown | * | * | | | | |
| <i>Picris hieracoides</i> var. <i>hieracoides</i> * | Terrestrial dry | Unknown | * | | | | | |
| <i>Pimelea glauca</i> | Terrestrial dry | Unknown | * | | | | | |
| <i>Plantago coronopus</i> ssp. <i>coronopus</i> * | Terrestrial dry | High-32,000 mg l ⁻¹ | * | * | * | * | * | (Wardle 1991) |
| <i>Plantago cunninghamii</i> | Terrestrial dry | Unknown | * | | | | | |
| <i>Plantago lanceolata</i> * | Terrestrial dry | Unknown | * | | | | | |
| <i>Plantago major</i> * | Terrestrial dry | Unknown | * | * | | | | |
| <i>Plantago turrifera</i> | Floodplain | Unknown | | * | | | | |
| <i>Poa annua</i> * | Terrestrial damp | Low-1,250 mg l ⁻¹ | | * | * | | | (Pessaraki and Pessaraki 2007) |
| <i>Poa labillardieri</i> var. <i>labillardieri</i> | Terrestrial damp | Unknown | | | * | | | |
| <i>Poa poiformis</i> | Terrestrial damp | Unknown | | | * | * | | |
| <i>Polygonum aviculare</i> * | Terrestrial dry | Unknown | * | * | * | | | |
| <i>Polygonum plebium</i> | Floodplain | Unknown | * | | | | | |
| <i>Polypogon maritimus</i> * | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-emergent | High | | | * | * | | (Brandle <i>et al.</i> 2002) |
| <i>Polypogon monspeliensis</i> * | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-emergent | High-35,000 mg l ⁻¹ | * | * | * | | | (Wardle 1991) |
| <i>Polypogon viridis</i> * | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-emergent | Moderate | | | * | | | (Brandle <i>et al.</i> 2002) |
| <i>Potamogeton crispus</i> | Submergent k-selected | Low | * | * | * | | | (Jessop and Tolken 1986) |
| <i>Potamogeton pectinatus</i> | Submergent k-selected | Moderate-10,000 mg l ⁻¹ | | | * | | | Bailey <i>et al.</i> 1992 |
| <i>Potamogeton tricarlinatus</i> | Submergent k-selected | Low | * | | | | | (Jessop and Tolken 1986) |
| <i>Psuedognaphalium luteo-album</i> | Floodplain | Unknown | * | * | * | | | |
| <i>Puccinellia distans</i> * | Terrestrial damp | Moderate- at least 15,000 mg l ⁻¹ | | | * | | | (Khan and Weber 2006) |
| <i>Puccinellia fasciculata</i> | Terrestrial damp | Unknown | | | * | | | |
| <i>Puccinellia stricta</i> var. <i>perlaxa</i> | Terrestrial damp | Moderate-30,000 mg l ⁻¹ | | | * | | | (Wardle 1991) |
| <i>Puccinellia stricta</i> var. <i>stricta</i> | Terrestrial damp | Moderate-30,000 mg l ⁻¹ | | | * | | | (Wardle 1991) |
| <i>Ranunculus amphitrichus</i> | Amphibious fluctuation responder-plastic | Unknown | | * | * | | | |
| <i>Ranunculus scleratus</i> * | Amphibious fluctuation responder-plastic | Unknown | * | | | | | |

| Species | Functional Group | Salinity Tolerance | Gorge | Lower Swamps | Lower Lakes | Murray Estuary | Coorong | References |
|--|---|----------------------------------|-------|--------------|-------------|----------------|---------|--|
| <i>Ranunculus trilobus</i> * | Amphibious fluctuation responder-plastic | Unknown | | | * | | | |
| <i>Reichardia tingitana</i> * | Terrestrial dry | Unknown | * | * | * | | | |
| <i>Rhagodia candolleana</i> ssp. <i>candolleana</i> | Terrestrial dry | Unknown | | | * | | | |
| <i>Rhagodia parabolica</i> | Terrestrial dry | Unknown | * | * | * | | | |
| <i>Rhodanthe pygmaeum</i> | Terrestrial dry | Unknown | * | | | | | |
| <i>Rorippa eusylis</i> | Floodplain | Unknown | * | | | | | |
| <i>Rorippa islandica</i> | Floodplain | Unknown | * | | | | | |
| <i>Rorippa nasturtium-aquaticum</i> * | Emergent | Unknown | * | * | * | | | |
| <i>Rorippa palustris</i> * | Floodplain | Unknown | * | * | * | | | |
| <i>Rostraria cristata</i> * | Terrestrial dry | Unknown | * | | | | | |
| <i>Rubus ulmifolius</i> * | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-emergent | Unknown | | | * | | | |
| <i>Rumex bidens</i> | Amphibious fluctuation responder-plastic | Unknown | * | * | * | | | |
| <i>Rumex conglomeratus</i> * | Amphibious fluctuation responder-plastic | Unknown | * | * | * | | | |
| <i>Rumex crispus</i> * | Amphibious fluctuation responder-plastic | Unknown | * | | | | | |
| <i>Rumex pulcher</i> ssp. <i>pulcher</i> * | Amphibious fluctuation responder-plastic | Unknown | | * | | | | |
| <i>Ruppia megacarpa</i> | Submergent k-selected | High-63,000 mg l ⁻¹ | | * | * | * | * | (Brock 1979; Brock 1981b; Brock 1981a) |
| <i>Ruppia polycarpa</i> | Submergent r-selected | High-125,000 mg l ⁻¹ | | | * | | | (Brock 1979; Brock 1981b; Brock 1981a) |
| <i>Ruppia tuberosa</i> | Submergent r-selected | High- 230,000 mg l ⁻¹ | | * | * | | * | (Brock 1979; Brock 1981b; Brock 1981a) |
| <i>Sagina apetala</i> * | Terrestrial damp | Unknown | * | | | | | |
| <i>Sagina maritima</i> * | Terrestrial damp | High | | | | * | * | (Brandle <i>et al.</i> 2002) |
| <i>Salix babylonica</i> * | Emergent | Low-4,300 mg l ⁻¹ | * | * | * | | | (Kennedy <i>et al.</i> 2003) |
| <i>Salix fragilis</i> * | Emergent | Low | | * | | | | (Cremer 1995; Cremer 2000) |
| <i>Salix matsudana</i> "Tortuosa" | Emergent | Low | * | | | | | (Cremer 1995; Cremer 2000) |
| <i>Salix nigrum</i> * | Emergent | Low | | * | | | | (Cremer 1995; Cremer 2000) |
| <i>Salsola kali</i> var. <i>kali</i> | Terrestrial dry | High | * | | | | | Cunningham <i>et al.</i> 1981 |
| <i>Samolus repens</i> | Terrestrial damp | High-40,000 mg l ⁻¹ | | * | * | * | * | (Wardle 1991) |
| <i>Sarcocornia blackiana</i> | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-emergent | High | | | * | * | * | (Brandle <i>et al.</i> 2002) |
| <i>Sarcocornia quinqueflora</i> | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-emergent | High-53,000 mg l ⁻¹ | * | * | * | * | * | (Wardle 1991) |
| <i>Schinus molle</i> * | Terrestrial dry | Unknown | * | | | | | |
| <i>Schismus barbatus</i> * | Terrestrial dry | Unknown | * | | | | | |
| <i>Schoenoplectus pungens</i> | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-emergent | High-39,000 mg l ⁻¹ | * | * | * | * | * | (Wardle 1991) |
| <i>Schoenoplectus validus</i> | Emergent | Low- 700 mg l ⁻¹ | * | * | * | | | Bailey <i>et al.</i> 1992 |
| <i>Scleroblitum atriplicinum</i> | Floodplain | Unknown | * | * | * | | | |
| <i>Sclerolaena blackiana</i> | Terrestrial dry | Unknown | * | * | * | | | |
| <i>Sclerolaena brachyptera</i> | Terrestrial dry | High | * | | | | | Cunningham <i>et al.</i> 1981 |
| <i>Sclerolaena diacantha</i> | Terrestrial dry | Unknown | * | | | | | |
| <i>Sclerolaena divaricata</i> | Terrestrial dry | Unknown | * | * | * | | | |
| <i>Sclerolaena muricata</i> var. <i>muricata</i> | Terrestrial dry | Unknown | * | | | | | |
| <i>Sclerolaena muricata</i> var. <i>villosa</i> | Terrestrial dry | Unknown | * | * | * | | | |
| <i>Sclerolaena tricuspis</i> | Terrestrial dry | Unknown | * | | | | | |
| <i>Sclerostegia arbuscula</i> | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-emergent | High | * | * | * | * | * | (Brandle <i>et al.</i> 2002) |
| <i>Senecio cunninghamii</i> | Floodplain | Unknown | * | | | | | |
| <i>Senecio glossanthus</i> | Terrestrial dry | Unknown | | | * | | | |
| <i>Senecio lautus</i> | Terrestrial dry | Unknown | * | * | * | | | |
| <i>Senecio pterophorus</i> var. <i>pterophorus</i> * | Terrestrial dry | Unknown | * | * | * | | | |
| <i>Senecio runcinifolius</i> | Floodplain | Unknown | * | * | * | | | |
| <i>Senna artemisioides</i> ssp. <i>filiofolia</i> | Terrestrial dry | Unknown | * | | | | | |
| <i>Silene apetala</i> * | Terrestrial dry | Unknown | * | | | | | |
| <i>Sinapis alba</i> * | Terrestrial dry | Unknown | * | * | * | | | |
| <i>Sisymbrium erysimoides</i> * | Terrestrial dry | Unknown | * | | | | | |
| <i>Sisymbrium irio</i> * | Terrestrial dry | Unknown | * | | | | | |
| <i>Solanum nigrum</i> * | Terrestrial damp | Unknown | * | * | | | | |
| <i>Sonchus asper</i> ssp. <i>glaucescens</i> * | Terrestrial damp | Unknown | * | * | * | | | |
| <i>Sonchus hydrophilus</i> | Terrestrial damp | Unknown | * | * | * | | | |

| Species | Functional Group | Salinity Tolerance | Gorge | Lower Swamps | Lower Lakes | Murray Estuary | Coorong | References |
|---|--|---|-------|--------------|-------------|----------------|---------|---------------------------------------|
| <i>Sonchus oleraceus</i> * | Terrestrial damp | Unknown | * | * | * | * | | |
| <i>Spergularia marina</i> * | Terrestrial damp | High | * | * | * | * | | Cunningham <i>et al.</i> 1981 |
| <i>Spirodela punctata</i> | Floating | Unknown | * | * | * | | | |
| <i>Sporobolus virginicus</i> | Terrestrial damp | High | | | * | * | | (Brandle <i>et al.</i> 2002) |
| <i>Sporobolus mitchellii</i> | Floodplain | High | * | | | | | J. Nicol pers. obs. |
| <i>Stemodia florulenta</i> | Floodplain | Unknown | * | | | | | |
| <i>Stipa drummondii</i> | Terrestrial dry | Unknown | * | | | | | |
| <i>Stipa nitida</i> | Terrestrial dry | Unknown | * | | | | | |
| <i>Stipa stipoides</i> | Terrestrial dry | High | | | | * | * | (Brandle <i>et al.</i> 2002) |
| <i>Suaeda australis</i> | Terrestrial damp | High-35,000 mg ^l ⁻¹ | * | * | * | * | * | (Clarke and Hannon 1970) |
| <i>Swainsona greyana</i> | Floodplain | Unknown | * | | | | | |
| <i>Swainsona swainsonoides</i> | Floodplain | Unknown | * | | | | | |
| <i>Tamarix aphylla</i> * | Terrestrial dry | High | * | | * | | | (Whitcraft <i>et al.</i> 2007) |
| <i>Tecticornia indica</i> ssp. <i>leiostachya</i> | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-emergent | High | * | * | * | * | * | Cunningham <i>et al.</i> 1981 |
| <i>Tetragonia eremaea</i> | Terrestrial dry | High | * | | | | | Cunningham <i>et al.</i> 1981 |
| <i>Tetragonia implexicoma</i> | Terrestrial dry | High | | | * | * | | Cunningham <i>et al.</i> 1981 |
| <i>Tetragonia tetragonoides</i> | Terrestrial dry | High | * | * | | | | Cunningham <i>et al.</i> 1981 |
| <i>Teucrium racemosum</i> | Terrestrial dry | Unknown | * | | | | | |
| <i>Threlkeldia diffusa</i> | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-emergent | High | * | * | * | * | | (Brandle <i>et al.</i> 2002) |
| <i>Trachymene cyanopetula</i> | Floodplain | Unknown | * | | | | | |
| <i>Trifolium arvense</i> var. <i>arvense</i> * | Terrestrial dry | Unknown | * | | | | | |
| <i>Trifolium repens</i> * | Terrestrial dry | Unknown | * | * | * | | | |
| <i>Triglochin hexagonum</i> | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-low growing | Unknown | | | * | | | |
| <i>Triglochin procerum</i> | Emergent | Moderate-10,000 mg ^l ⁻¹ | * | * | * | | | Bailey <i>et al.</i> 1992 |
| <i>Triglochin striatum</i> | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-low growing | High-40,000 mg ^l ⁻¹ | * | * | * | * | * | (Clarke and Hannon 1970; Wardle 1991) |
| <i>Typha domingensis</i> | Emergent | Moderate-at least 13,000 EC | * | * | * | | | J. Nicol pers. obs. |
| <i>Typha orientalis</i> | Emergent | Moderate-at least 13,000 EC | * | * | * | | | J. Nicol pers. obs. |
| <i>Urtica incisa</i> | Terrestrial damp | Unknown | * | * | * | | | |
| <i>Urtica urens</i> * | Terrestrial damp | Unknown | * | * | * | | | |
| <i>Vallisneria spiralis</i> | Submergent k-selected | Moderate 13,320 mg ^l ⁻¹ | * | * | * | | | |
| <i>Verbascum virgatum</i> * | Terrestrial dry | Unknown | | * | | | | |
| <i>Vicia sativa</i> * | Terrestrial dry | Unknown | * | * | * | | | |
| <i>Viminaria juncea</i> | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-woody | Unknown | | | * | | | |
| <i>Vittadinia cuneata</i> var. <i>cuneata</i> | Terrestrial dry | Unknown | * | | | | | |
| <i>Vittadinia gracilis</i> | Terrestrial dry | Unknown | * | | | | | |
| <i>Vulpia fasciculata</i> * | Terrestrial damp | High | * | * | * | * | | (Brandle <i>et al.</i> 2002) |
| <i>Vulpia myuros</i> * | Terrestrial dry | Unknown | * | | | | | |
| <i>Wahlenbergia fluminalis</i> | Floodplain | Unknown | * | | | | | |
| <i>Wilsonia rotundifolia</i> | Terrestrial damp | Moderate | * | * | * | * | | Cunningham <i>et al.</i> 1981 |
| <i>Xanthium occidentale</i> * | Floodplain | Unknown | * | | | | | |
| <i>Xanthium occidentale</i> * | Floodplain | Unknown | * | | | | | |

Appendix 2: List of dominant plant communities in a. the gorge, b. lower swamps, c. Lower Lakes, d. Murray Estuary and e. Coorong Lagoons (Brandle *et al.* 2002; Holt *et al.* 2005; Nicol *et al.* 2006; Marsland and Nicol 2007; Marsland and Nicol 2008; Stewart *et al.* 2009; Marsland *et al.* 2010).

a.

| Vegetation Community | Dominant Species | Functional Group | Salinity Tolerance |
|--|---|--|--------------------|
| Austral Seablite Low Shrubland over Creeping Brookweed | <i>Suaeda australis</i> , <i>Samolus repens</i> | Terrestrial damp | High |
| Black-seed Samphire Low Shrubland | <i>Tecticornia pergranulata</i> ssp. <i>pergranulata</i> | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-emergent | High |
| Brown-head Samphire Low Shrubland +/- emergent Lignum | <i>Tecticornia indica</i> ssp. <i>leiostachya</i> | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-emergent | High |
| Shrubby Samphire Low Shrubland | <i>Pachycornia arbuscula</i> | Terrestrial dry | High |
| Common Reed Tussock Grassland +/- Lignum and River Red Gum | <i>Phragmites australis</i> | Emergent | Moderate |
| Narrow-leaf Bulrush Sedgeland +/- Common Reed +/- River Club-rush and emergent River Red Gum | <i>Typha domingensis</i> | Emergent | Low |
| Poorly defined floristic association unified by introduced species, in particular, the grass Salt-water Couch | <i>Paspalum vaginatum</i> | Terrestrial damp | Moderate |
| Broad-leaf Bulrush Tussock Grassland +/- River Club-rush | <i>Typha orientalis</i> , <i>Schoenoplectus validus</i> | Emergent | Low |
| River Club-rush Sedgeland +/- emergent River Red Gum | <i>Schoenoplectus validus</i> | Emergent | Low |
| Salt Club-rush Sedgeland | <i>Bolboschoenus caldwellii</i> | Emergent | Moderate |
| Lignum Tall Shrubland | <i>Muehlenbeckia florulenta</i> | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-woody | Moderate |
| River Box / River Red Gum +/- River Coobah Open Woodland over dense Lignum | <i>Muehlenbeckia florulenta</i> , <i>Einadia nutans</i> ssp. <i>nutans</i> , <i>Enchylaena tomentosa</i> var. <i>tomentosa</i> | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-woody/Terrestrial dry | Moderate |
| Lignum Tall Shrubland over Black-seed Samphire/Ruby Saltbush | <i>Muehlenbeckia florulenta</i> , <i>Tecticornia pergranulata</i> ssp. <i>pergranulata</i> , <i>Enchylaena tomentosa</i> var. <i>tomentosa</i> | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-woody/Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-emergent/Terrestrial dry | Moderate |
| River Red Gum Open Forest over Common Reed +/-Lignum | <i>Phragmites australis</i> , <i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i> var. <i>camaldulensis</i> , <i>Muehlenbeckia florulenta</i> , <i>Cyperus gymnocaulos</i> | Emergent/Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-woody/Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-emergent | Moderate |
| River Red Gum Open Forest over Lignum/Spiny Flat-sedge +/-Warrego Summer-grass | <i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i> var. <i>camaldulensis</i> , <i>Muehlenbeckia florulenta</i> , <i>Cyperus gymnocaulos</i> | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-woody/Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-emergent | Moderate |
| River Red Gum and River Box Woodland over Spiny Flat-sedge/Shrubby Groundsel | <i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i> var. <i>camaldulensis</i> , <i>Cyperus gymnocaulos</i> , <i>Eucalyptus largiflorens</i> | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-woody/Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-emergent | Moderate |
| River Red Gum Woodland over Common Spike-rush/Spiny Flat-sedge/Common Blown-grass | <i>Lachnagrostis filiformis</i> , <i>Eleocharis acuta</i> , <i>Cyperus gymnocaulos</i> , <i>Paspalum distichum</i> <i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i> var. <i>camaldulensis</i> | Floodplain/Emergent/Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-woody/Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-emergent | Moderate |
| River Box Woodland over Ruby Saltbush | <i>Eucalyptus largiflorens</i> , <i>Enchylaena tomentosa</i> var. <i>tomentosa</i> , <i>Einadia nutans</i> ssp. <i>nutans</i> | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-woody/Terrestrial dry | Moderate |
| River Box Open Woodland over Spreading Emubush and Ruby Saltbush | <i>Eremophila divaricata</i> ssp. <i>divaricata</i> , <i>Salsola kali</i> , <i>Einadia nutans</i> ssp. <i>nutans</i> , <i>Enchylaena tomentosa</i> var. <i>tomentosa</i> | Terrestrial dry | Moderate |
| River Coobah Open Woodland over Ruby Saltbush +/- Short-leaf Bluebush Low Shrubland | <i>Enchylaena tomentosa</i> var. <i>tomentosa</i> | Terrestrial dry | Moderate |
| Rat-tail Couch Tussock Grassland +/- Chenopods and Sedges | <i>Sporobolus mitchellii</i> , <i>Muehlenbeckia florulenta</i> | Floodplain/Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-woody | Moderate |
| <i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i> / <i>Eucalyptus largiflorens</i> over <i>Myoporum montanum</i> | <i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i> , <i>Eucalyptus largiflorens</i> , <i>Myoporum montanum</i> | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-woody/Terrestrial dry | Moderate |
| <i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i> over <i>Muehlenbeckia florulenta</i> with <i>Phragmites australis</i> +/- <i>Typha domingensis</i> +/- <i>Schoenoplectus validus</i> | <i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i> , <i>Muehlenbeckia florulenta</i> , <i>Phragmites australis</i> | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-woody/Emergent | Moderate |
| <i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i> over <i>Myoporum montanum</i> +/- <i>Typha</i> sp. +/- <i>Phragmites australis</i> | <i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i> , <i>Myoporum montanum</i> | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-woody/Terrestrial dry | Moderate |
| <i>Halosarcia pergranulata</i> ssp. <i>pergranulata</i> shrubland | <i>Halosarcia pergranulata</i> ssp. <i>pergranulata</i> | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-emergent | High |
| <i>Phragmites australis</i> / <i>Typha domingensis</i> / <i>Schoenoplectus validus</i> sedgeland | <i>Phragmites australis</i> , <i>Typha domingensis</i> , <i>Schoenoplectus validus</i> | Emergent | Low |
| <i>Phragmites australis</i> grassland | <i>Phragmites australis</i> | Emergent | Moderate |
| <i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i> over <i>Phragmites australis</i> +/- <i>Schoenoplectus validus</i> +/- <i>Typha</i> sp. | <i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i> , <i>Phragmites australis</i> | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-woody/Emergent | Moderate |
| <i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i> over <i>Myoporum montanum</i> +/- <i>Typha</i> sp. +/- <i>Phragmites australis</i> | <i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i> , <i>Myoporum montanum</i> | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-woody/Terrestrial dry | Moderate |
| <i>Eucalyptus largiflorens</i> / <i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i> woodland | <i>Eucalyptus largiflorens</i> , <i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i> | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-woody | Moderate |
| <i>Salix babylonica</i> woodland | <i>Salix babylonica</i> | Emergent | Low |
| <i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i> / <i>Salix babylonica</i> woodland | <i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i> , <i>Salix babylonica</i> | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-woody/Emergent | Low |
| <i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i> over <i>Acacia stenophylla</i> +/- <i>Muehlenbeckia florulenta</i> | <i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i> , <i>Acacia stenophylla</i> | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-woody | Moderate |
| <i>Acacia stenophylla</i> over <i>Muehlenbeckia florulenta</i> | <i>Acacia stenophylla</i> , <i>Muehlenbeckia florulenta</i> | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-woody | Moderate |
| <i>Eucalyptus largiflorens</i> woodland over <i>Muehlenbeckia florulenta</i> +/- <i>Enchylaena tomentosa</i> | <i>Eucalyptus largiflorens</i> , <i>Muehlenbeckia florulenta</i> | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-woody | Moderate |
| <i>Juncus</i> sp. sedgeland | <i>Juncus</i> sp. | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-emergent | Moderate |
| <i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i> / <i>Eucalyptus largiflorens</i> over <i>Cyperus gymnocaulos</i> / <i>Paspalum dilatatum</i> | <i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i> , <i>Eucalyptus largiflorens</i> , <i>Cyperus gymnocaulos</i> , <i>Paspalum dilatatum</i> | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-woody/Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-emergent/Terrestrial damp | Moderate |
| <i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i> over <i>Muehlenbeckia florulenta</i> | <i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i> , <i>Muehlenbeckia florulenta</i> | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-woody | Moderate |
| <i>Eucalyptus largiflorens</i> woodland | <i>Eucalyptus largiflorens</i> | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-woody | Moderate |
| <i>Typha</i> sp./ <i>Schoenoplectus validus</i> sedgeland | <i>Typha</i> sp., <i>Schoenoplectus validus</i> | Emergent | Low |

| Vegetation Community | Dominant Species | Functional Group | Salinity Tolerance |
|--|---|---|--------------------|
| <i>Triglochin procerum</i> herbland | <i>Triglochin procerum</i> | Emergent | Low |
| <i>Typha</i> sp. sedgeland | <i>Typha</i> sp. | Emergent | Low |
| <i>Vallisneria spiralis</i> submerged herbland | <i>Vallisneria spiralis</i> | Submergent k-selected | Low |
| <i>Schoenoplectus validus</i> sedgeland | <i>Schoenoplectus validus</i> | Emergent | Low |
| <i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i> var. <i>camaldulensis</i> / <i>Salix babylonica</i> woodland+/ <i>Phragmites australis</i> | <i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i> var. <i>camaldulensis</i> , <i>Salix babylonica</i> | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-woody/Emergent | Low |
| <i>Phragmites australis</i> grassland +/- <i>Schoenoplectus validus</i> | <i>Phragmites australis</i> | Emergent | Moderate |
| <i>Typha</i> sp./ <i>Phragmites australis</i> / <i>Schoenoplectus validus</i> sedgeland | <i>Typha</i> sp., <i>Phragmites australis</i> , <i>Schoenoplectus validus</i> | Emergent | Low |
| <i>Triglochin procerum</i> , <i>Eleocharis acuta</i> sedgeland | <i>Triglochin procerum</i> , <i>Eleocharis acuta</i> | Emergent | Low |
| <i>Halosarcia pergranulata</i> ssp. <i>pergranulata</i> shrubland | <i>Halosarcia pergranulata</i> ssp. <i>pergranulata</i> | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-emergent | High |
| <i>Myriophyllum verrucosum</i> herbland | <i>Myriophyllum verrucosum</i> | Amphibious fluctuation responder-plastic | Low |
| <i>Cyperus gymnocaulos</i> / <i>Eleocharis acuta</i> sedgeland | <i>Cyperus gymnocaulos</i> , <i>Eleocharis acuta</i> | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-emergent/Emergent | Moderate |
| <i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i> var. <i>camaldulensis</i> +/- <i>Paspalum distichum</i> , <i>Muehlenbeckia florulenta</i> and <i>Senecio</i> sp. | <i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i> var. <i>camaldulensis</i> | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-woody | Moderate |
| <i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i> var. <i>camaldulensis</i> +/- <i>Muehlenbeckia florulenta</i> , <i>Carrichtera annua</i> and <i>Cyperus gymnocaulos</i> | <i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i> var. <i>camaldulensis</i> | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-woody | Moderate |
| <i>Muehlenbeckia florulenta</i> shrubland | <i>Muehlenbeckia florulenta</i> | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-woody | Moderate |
| <i>Vallisneria spiralis</i> / <i>Nymphaea</i> sp. herbland | <i>Vallisneria spiralis</i> , <i>Nymphaea</i> sp. | Submergent k-selected/Emergent | Low |
| <i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i> var. <i>camaldulensis</i> woodland | <i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i> var. <i>camaldulensis</i> | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-woody | Moderate |
| <i>Phragmites australis</i> / <i>Eleocharis sphacelata</i> sedgeland | <i>Phragmites australis</i> , <i>Eleocharis sphacelata</i> | Emergent | Low |
| <i>Phragmites australis</i> / <i>Schoenoplectus validus</i> sedgeland | <i>Phragmites australis</i> , <i>Schoenoplectus validus</i> | Emergent | Low |
| Diverse riparian herbland | <i>Alternanthera denticulata</i> , <i>Aster subulatus</i> , <i>Cyperus gymnocaulos</i> , <i>Eleocharis acuta</i> , <i>Hydrocotyle verticillata</i> , <i>Juncus usitatus</i> , <i>Rumex bidens</i> , <i>Triglochin procerum</i> | Floodplain/Terrestrial damp/Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-emergent/Emergent/Amphibious fluctuation responder-plastic | Low |
| Chenopod shrubland | <i>Atriplex prostrata</i> , <i>Atriplex semibaccata</i> , <i>Enchylaena tomentosa</i> , <i>Muehlenbeckia florulenta</i> , <i>Sporobolus mitchellii</i> | Floodplain/Terrestrial damp/Terrestrial dry/Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-woody | Moderate |
| <i>Sporobolus mitchellii</i> grassland | <i>Sporobolus mitchellii</i> | Floodplain | Moderate |
| <i>Eleocharis acuta</i> sedgeland | <i>Eleocharis acuta</i> | Emergent | Moderate |
| <i>Juncus usitatus</i> sedgeland | <i>Juncus usitatus</i> , <i>Cyperus gymnocaulos</i> | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-emergent | Moderate |
| <i>Juncus usitatus</i> / <i>Limosella australis</i> sedgeland | <i>Juncus usitatus</i> / <i>Limosella australis</i> | Amphibious fluctuation responder-emergent/Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-low growing | Moderate |
| <i>Persicaria lapathifolium</i> herbland | <i>Persicaria lapathifolium</i> / <i>Mimulus repens</i> | Amphibious fluctuation responder-plastic/Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-low growing | Low |
| <i>Heliotropium europaeum</i> herbland | <i>Heliotropium europaeum</i> | Floodplain | Moderate |

b.

| Vegetation Community | Dominant Species | Functional Group | Salinity Tolerance |
|---|---|--|--------------------|
| Austral Seablite Low Shrubland over Creeping Brookweed | <i>Suaeda australis</i> , <i>Samolus repens</i> | Terrestrial damp | Moderate |
| Black-seed Samphire Low Shrubland | <i>Tecticornia pergranulata</i> ssp. <i>pergranulata</i> | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-emergent | High |
| Brown-head Samphire Low Shrubland +/- emergent Lignum | <i>Tecticornia indica</i> ssp. <i>leiostachya</i> | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-emergent | High |
| Common Reed Tussock Grassland +/- Lignum and River Red Gum | <i>Phragmites australis</i> | Emergent | Moderate |
| Narrow-leaf Bulrush Sedgeland +/- Common Reed +/- River Club-rush and emergent River Red Gum | <i>Typha domingensis</i> | Emergent | Low |
| Poorly defined floristic association unified by introduced species, in particular, the grass Salt-water Couch | <i>Paspalum vaginatum</i> | Terrestrial damp | Moderate |
| Broad-leaf Bulrush Tussock Grassland +/- River Club-rush | <i>Typha orientalis</i> , <i>Schoenoplectus validus</i> | Emergent | Low |
| River Club-rush Sedgeland +/- emergent River Red Gum | <i>Schoenoplectus validus</i> | Emergent | Low |
| Salt Club-rush Sedgeland | <i>Bolboschoenus caldwellii</i> | Emergent | Moderate |
| Lignum Tall Shrubland | <i>Muehlenbeckia florulenta</i> | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-woody | Moderate |
| Lignum Tall Shrubland over Black-seed Samphire/Ruby Saltbush | <i>Muehlenbeckia florulenta</i> , <i>Tecticornia pergranulata</i> ssp. <i>pergranulata</i> , <i>Enchylaena tomentosa</i> var. <i>tomentosa</i> | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-woody/Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-emergent/Terrestrial dry | Moderate |
| River Red Gum Open Forest over Common Reed +/-Lignum | <i>Phragmites australis</i> , <i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i> var. <i>camaldulensis</i> , <i>Muehlenbeckia florulenta</i> , <i>Cyperus gymnocaulos</i> | Emergent/Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-woody/Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-emergent | Moderate |
| River Red Gum Open Forest over Lignum/Spiny Flat-sedge+/-Warrego Summer-grass | <i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i> var. <i>camaldulensis</i> , <i>Muehlenbeckia florulenta</i> , <i>Cyperus gymnocaulos</i> | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-woody/Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-emergent | Moderate |
| River Red Gum Woodland over Common Spike-rush/Spiny Flat-sedge/Common Blown-grass | <i>Lachnagrostis filiformis</i> , <i>Eleocharis acuta</i> , <i>Cyperus gymnocaulos</i> , <i>Paspalum distichum</i> <i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i> var. <i>camaldulensis</i> | Floodplain/Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-woody/Emergent/Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-emergent | Moderate |
| River Box Woodland over Ruby Saltbush | <i>Eucalyptus largiflorens</i> , <i>Enchylaena tomentosa</i> var. <i>tomentosa</i> , <i>Einadia nutans</i> ssp. <i>nutans</i> | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-woody/Terrestrial dry | Moderate |
| <i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i> / <i>Salix</i> spp. woodland | <i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i> , <i>Salix</i> spp. | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-woody/Emergent | Low |

| Vegetation Community | Dominant Species | Functional Group | Salinity Tolerance |
|---|---|---|--------------------|
| <i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i> over <i>Enchylaena tomentosa</i> +/- <i>Muehlenbeckia florulenta</i> | <i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i> , <i>Enchylaena tomentosa</i> | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-woody/Terrestrial dry | Moderate |
| <i>Phragmites australis</i> / <i>Ehrharta longifolia</i> grassland over <i>Mesembryanthemum nodiflorum</i> | <i>Phragmites australis</i> , <i>Ehrharta longifolia</i> , <i>Mesembryanthemum nodiflorum</i> | Emergent/Terrestrial dry | Moderate |
| <i>Phragmites australis</i> / <i>Typha domingensis</i> / <i>Schoenoplectus validus</i> sedgeland | <i>Phragmites australis</i> , <i>Typha domingensis</i> , <i>Schoenoplectus validus</i> | Emergent | Low |
| <i>Salix</i> spp. woodland over <i>Phragmites australis</i> | <i>Salix</i> spp., <i>Phragmites australis</i> | Emergent | Low |
| <i>Typha</i> sp./ <i>Bolboschoenus medianus</i> sedgeland | <i>Typha</i> sp., <i>Bolboschoenus medianus</i> | Emergent | Low |
| <i>Typha</i> sp. sedgeland | <i>Typha</i> sp. | Emergent | Low |
| <i>Muehlenbeckia florulenta</i> shrubland | <i>Muehlenbeckia florulenta</i> | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-woody | Moderate |
| <i>Phragmites australis</i> grassland | <i>Phragmites australis</i> | Emergent | Moderate |
| <i>Schoenoplectus validus</i> / <i>Phragmites australis</i> / <i>Eleocharis sphacelata</i> sedgeland | <i>Schoenoplectus validus</i> , <i>Phragmites australis</i> , <i>Eleocharis sphacelata</i> | Emergent | Low |
| <i>Schoenoplectus validus</i> sedgeland | <i>Schoenoplectus validus</i> | Emergent | Low |
| <i>Typha</i> sp./ <i>Schoenoplectus validus</i> sedgeland | <i>Typha</i> sp., <i>Schoenoplectus validus</i> | Emergent | Low |
| <i>Eleocharis acuta</i> / <i>Triglochin procerum</i> sedgeland over <i>Berula erecta</i> | <i>Eleocharis acuta</i> , <i>Triglochin procerum</i> , <i>Berula erecta</i> | Emergent | Low |
| <i>Eleocharis sphacelata</i> sedgeland over <i>Triglochin procerum</i> / <i>Persicaria decipiens</i> | <i>Eleocharis sphacelata</i> , <i>Triglochin procerum</i> , <i>Persicaria decipiens</i> | Emergent/Amphibious fluctuation responder-plastic | Low |
| <i>Halosarcia pergranulata</i> ssp. <i>pergranulata</i> shrubland | <i>Halosarcia pergranulata</i> ssp. <i>pergranulata</i> | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-emergent | High |
| <i>Muehlenbeckia florulenta</i> shrubland over <i>Enchylaena tomentosa</i> | <i>Muehlenbeckia florulenta</i> , <i>Enchylaena tomentosa</i> | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-woody/Terrestrial dry | Moderate |
| <i>Typha</i> sp. sedgeland over <i>Triglochin procerum</i> | <i>Typha</i> sp., <i>Triglochin procerum</i> | Emergent | Low |
| <i>Suaeda australis</i> shrubland | <i>Suaeda australis</i> | Terrestrial damp | High |
| <i>Chenopodium glaucum</i> herbland | <i>Chenopodium glaucum</i> | Terrestrial damp | Unknown |
| <i>Salix babylonica</i> woodland | <i>Salix babylonica</i> | Emergent | Low |
| <i>Bolboschoenus caldwellii</i> sedgeland | <i>Bolboschoenus caldwellii</i> | Emergent | Moderate |
| <i>Agrostis avenacea</i> grassland | <i>Agrostis avenacea</i> | Floodplain | Unknown |
| <i>Lolium</i> sp./ <i>Avena barbata</i> / <i>Halosarcia pergranulata</i> ssp. <i>pergranulata</i> grassland/shrubland | <i>Lolium</i> sp., <i>Avena barbata</i> , <i>Halosarcia pergranulata</i> ssp. <i>pergranulata</i> | Terrestrial dry/Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-emergent | Moderate |
| <i>Eleocharis acuta</i> sedgeland | <i>Eleocharis acuta</i> | Emergent | Moderate |
| <i>Paspalum distichum</i> grassland | <i>Paspalum distichum</i> | Terrestrial damp | Moderate |
| <i>Vallisneria spiralis</i> submerged herbland | <i>Vallisneria spiralis</i> | Submergent k-selected | Low |
| <i>Triglochin procerum</i> herbland | <i>Triglochin procerum</i> , <i>Berula erecta</i> , <i>Eleocharis acuta</i> | Emergent | Low |
| <i>Typha</i> sp./ <i>Phragmites australis</i> sedgeland | <i>Typha</i> sp., <i>Phragmites australis</i> sedgeland | Emergent | Low |
| <i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i> var. <i>camaldulensis</i> woodland (planted) +/- <i>Eleocharis acuta</i> , <i>Paspalum distichum</i> , <i>Phragmites australis</i> and <i>Berula erecta</i> | <i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i> var. <i>camaldulensis</i> | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-woody | Moderate |
| <i>Salix ?nigrum</i> woodland over <i>Triglochin procerum</i> | <i>Salix ?nigrum</i> , <i>Triglochin procerum</i> | Emergent | Low |
| Diverse herbland including <i>Triglochin procerum</i> , <i>Hydrocotyle verticillata</i> , <i>Berula erecta</i> | <i>Triglochin procerum</i> , <i>Hydrocotyle verticillata</i> , <i>Berula erecta</i> | Emergent | Low |
| <i>Pennisetum clandestinum</i> grassland | <i>Pennisetum clandestinum</i> | Terrestrial dry | Moderate |
| <i>Paspalum distichum</i> grassland | <i>Paspalum distichum</i> | Terrestrial damp | Moderate |
| <i>Ruppia megacarpa</i> submerged herbland | <i>Ruppia megacarpa</i> | Submergent k-selected | High |
| <i>Phragmites australis</i> / <i>Bolboschoenus caldwellii</i> sedgeland | <i>Phragmites australis</i> , <i>Bolboschoenus caldwellii</i> | Emergent | Moderate |

c.

| Vegetation Community | Dominant Species | Functional Group | Salinity Tolerance |
|--|---|--|--------------------|
| Salt Bluebush/ Marsh Saltbush Low Shrubland +/- Swamp Paper-bark | <i>Maireana oppositifolia</i> , <i>Plantago coronopus</i> ssp. <i>coronopus</i> , | Terrestrial dry | Moderate |
| Beaded Samphire Low Shrubland +/- Lignum | <i>Sarcocornia quinqueflora</i> , <i>Samolus repens</i> | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-emergent/Terrestrial damp | High |
| Lignum Closed Shrubland with Common Reed | <i>Muehlenbeckia florulenta</i> , <i>Phragmites australis</i> | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-woody/Emergent | Moderate |
| Narrow-leaf Bulrush +/- Common Reed Reedland | <i>Aster subulatus</i> , <i>Berula erecta</i> , <i>Typha domingensis</i> , <i>Phragmites australis</i> | Emergent/Terrestrial damp | Moderate |
| Beaded Samphire Low Shrubland over Austral Seablite | <i>Sarcocornia quinqueflora</i> , <i>Suaeda australis</i> | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-emergent/Terrestrial damp | High |
| Austral Seablite Low Shrubland over Creeping Brookweed | <i>Suaeda australis</i> , <i>Samolus repens</i> | Terrestrial damp | High |
| Sea Rush Sedgeland over Creeping Brookweed | <i>Juncus kraussii</i> , <i>Samolus repens</i> | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-emergent/Terrestrial damp | Moderate |
| Swamp Paper-bark Low Closed Forest over Sea Rush | <i>Melaleuca halmaturorum</i> ssp. <i>halmaturorum</i> , <i>Juncus kraussii</i> , <i>Muehlenbeckia florulenta</i> | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-woody | Moderate |
| Black-seed Samphire Low Shrubland | <i>Tecticornia pergranulata</i> ssp. <i>pergranulata</i> | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-emergent | High |
| Brown-head Samphire Low Shrubland +/- emergent Lignum | <i>Tecticornia indica</i> ssp. <i>leiostachya</i> | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-emergent | High |
| Shrubby Samphire Low Shrubland | <i>Pachycornia arbuscula</i> | Terrestrial dry | High |
| Common Reed Tussock Grassland +/- Lignum and River Red Gum | <i>Phragmites australis</i> | Emergent | Moderate |
| Narrow-leaf Bulrush Sedgeland +/- Common Reed +/- River Club-rush and emergent River Red Gum | <i>Typha domingensis</i> | Emergent | Moderate |
| Poorly defined floristic association unified by introduced species, in particular, the | <i>Paspalum vaginatum</i> | Terrestrial damp | Moderate |

| Vegetation Community | Dominant Species | Functional Group | Salinity Tolerance |
|---|--|--|--------------------|
| grass Salt-water Couch | | | |
| Broad-leaf Bulrush Tussock Grassland +/- River Club-rush | <i>Typha orientalis</i> , <i>Schoenoplectus validus</i> | Emergent | Low |
| River Club-rush Sedgeland +/- emergent River Red Gum | <i>Schoenoplectus validus</i> | Emergent | Low |
| Salt Club-rush Sedgeland | <i>Bolboschoenus caldwellii</i> | Emergent | Moderate |
| Lignum Tall Shrubland | <i>Muehlenbeckia florulenta</i> | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-woody | Moderate |
| <i>Gahnia filum</i> sedgeland over +/- <i>Cynodon dactylon</i> | <i>Gahnia filum</i> | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-emergent | High |
| <i>Halosarcia pergranulata</i> ssp. <i>pergranulata</i> shrubland | <i>Halosarcia pergranulata</i> ssp. <i>pergranulata</i> | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-emergent | High |
| <i>Melaleuca halmaturorum</i> low woodland | <i>Melaleuca halmaturorum</i> | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-woody | High |
| <i>Phragmites australis</i> sedgeland with emergent willow | <i>Phragmites australis</i> , <i>Salix babylonica</i> | Emergent | Low |
| <i>Suaeda australis</i> shrubland | <i>Suaeda australis</i> | Terrestrial damp | High |
| <i>Salix babylonica</i> woodland over <i>Phragmites australis</i> | <i>Salix babylonica</i> , <i>Phragmites australis</i> | Emergent | Low |
| <i>Schoenoplectus validus</i> sedgeland | <i>Schoenoplectus validus</i> | Emergent | Low |
| <i>Typha</i> sp./ <i>Phragmites australis</i> sedgeland | <i>Typha</i> sp., <i>Phragmites australis</i> | Emergent | Low |
| <i>Typha</i> sp. / <i>Schoenoplectus validus</i> sedgeland | <i>Typha</i> sp., <i>Schoenoplectus validus</i> | Emergent | Low |
| <i>Typha</i> sp. sedgeland | <i>Typha</i> sp. | Emergent | Low |
| <i>Schoenoplectus pungens</i> sedgeland | <i>Schoenoplectus pungens</i> | Emergent | High |
| <i>Bolboschoenus caldwellii</i> sedgeland | <i>Bolboschoenus caldwellii</i> | Emergent | Moderate |
| <i>Juncus kraussii</i> sedgeland | <i>Juncus kraussii</i> | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-emergent | Moderate |
| <i>Critesion marinum</i> / <i>Lolium perenne</i> grassland | <i>Critesion marinum</i> , <i>Lolium perenne</i> | Terrestrial dry | Moderate |
| <i>Eleocharis acuta</i> / <i>Bolboschoenus caldwellii</i> sedgeland | <i>Eleocharis acuta</i> , <i>Bolboschoenus caldwellii</i> | Emergent | Low |
| <i>Halosarcia pergranulata</i> ssp. <i>pergranulata</i> / <i>Sarcocornia quinqueflora</i> shrubland over <i>Triglochin striatum</i> / <i>Ruppia polycarpa</i> | <i>Halosarcia pergranulata</i> ssp. <i>pergranulata</i> , <i>Sarcocornia quinqueflora</i> , <i>Triglochin striatum</i> , <i>Ruppia polycarpa</i> | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-emergent/Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-low growing/Submergent r-selected | High |
| <i>Lepilaena cylindrocarpa</i> / <i>Nitella</i> herbland | <i>Lepilaena cylindrocarpa</i> , <i>Nitella</i> sp. | Submergent r-selected | High |
| <i>Myriophyllum caput-medusae</i> herbland | <i>Myriophyllum caput-medusae</i> | Amphibious fluctuation responder-plastic | Moderate |
| <i>Pennisetum clandestinum</i> +/- <i>Paspalum vaginatum</i> | <i>Pennisetum clandestinum</i> | Terrestrial damp | Moderate |
| <i>Pennisetum clandestinum</i> grassland | <i>Pennisetum clandestinum</i> | Terrestrial dry | Moderate |
| <i>Ruppia polycarpa</i> submerged herbland | <i>Ruppia polycarpa</i> | Submergent r-selected | High |
| <i>Triglochin procerum</i> herbland | <i>Triglochin procerum</i> | Emergent | Moderate |
| <i>Frankenia pauciflora</i> var. <i>gunnii</i> shrubland over <i>Cotula coronopifolia</i> | <i>Frankenia pauciflora</i> var. <i>gunnii</i> , <i>Cotula coronopifolia</i> | Amphibious fluctuation responder-plastic | High |
| <i>Lycium ferocissimum</i> shrubland | <i>Lycium ferocissimum</i> | Terrestrial dry | High |
| <i>Paspalum vaginatum</i> grassland | <i>Paspalum vaginatum</i> | Terrestrial damp | Moderate |
| <i>Schoenoplectus pungens</i> sedgeland | <i>Schoenoplectus pungens</i> | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-emergent | High |
| <i>Typha</i> sp./ <i>Schoenoplectus validus</i> sedgeland | <i>Typha</i> sp., <i>Schoenoplectus validus</i> | Emergent | Low |
| <i>Eleocharis acuta</i> sedgeland over <i>Paspalum vaginatum</i> | <i>Eleocharis acuta</i> , <i>Paspalum vaginatum</i> | Emergent/Terrestrial damp | Moderate |
| <i>Muehlenbeckia florulenta</i> shrubland | <i>Muehlenbeckia florulenta</i> | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-woody | Moderate |
| <i>Sarcocornia quinqueflora</i> shrubland | <i>Sarcocornia quinqueflora</i> | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-emergent | High |
| <i>Typha</i> sp./ <i>Phragmites australis</i> sedgeland | <i>Typha</i> sp., <i>Phragmites australis</i> | Emergent | Moderate |
| <i>Muehlenbeckia florulenta</i> shrubland over <i>Halosarcia pergranulata</i> ssp. <i>pergranulata</i> +/- <i>Atriplex leptocarpa</i> | <i>Muehlenbeckia florulenta</i> , <i>Halosarcia pergranulata</i> ssp. <i>pergranulata</i> | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-woody/Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-emergent | Moderate |
| <i>Muehlenbeckia florulenta</i> shrubland over <i>Phragmites australis</i> | <i>Muehlenbeckia florulenta</i> , <i>Phragmites australis</i> | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-woody/Emergent | Moderate |
| <i>Suaeda australis</i> shrubland | <i>Suaeda australis</i> | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-emergent | High |
| <i>Paspalum distichum</i> grassland | <i>Paspalum distichum</i> | Terrestrial damp | Moderate |
| <i>Typha domingensis</i> sedgeland | <i>Typha domingensis</i> | Emergent | Low |
| <i>Bolboschoenus caldwellii</i> / <i>Juncus kraussii</i> sedgeland | <i>Bolboschoenus caldwellii</i> , <i>Juncus kraussii</i> | Emergent/Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-emergent | Moderate |
| <i>Typha</i> sp./ <i>Bolboschoenus caldwellii</i> sedgeland | <i>Typha</i> sp., <i>Bolboschoenus caldwellii</i> | Emergent | Moderate |
| <i>Suaeda australis</i> / <i>Sarcocornia quinqueflora</i> shrubland | <i>Suaeda australis</i> , <i>Sarcocornia quinqueflora</i> | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-emergent/Terrestrial damp | High |
| <i>Paspalum distichum</i> grassland | <i>Paspalum distichum</i> | Terrestrial damp | Moderate |
| <i>Ruppia megacarpa</i> submerged herbland | <i>Ruppia megacarpa</i> | Submergent k-selected | High |
| <i>Myriophyllum salsugineum</i> herbland | <i>Myriophyllum salsugineum</i> | Amphibious fluctuation responder-plastic | Moderate |
| <i>Typha</i> sp. over <i>Paspalum distichum</i> / <i>Bolboschoenus caldwellii</i> | <i>Typha</i> sp., <i>Paspalum distichum</i> , <i>Bolboschoenus caldwellii</i> | Emergent/Terrestrial damp | Moderate |
| <i>Bolboschoenus caldwellii</i> sedgeland over <i>Halosarcia pergranulata</i> ssp. <i>pergranulata</i> | <i>Bolboschoenus caldwellii</i> , <i>Halosarcia pergranulata</i> ssp. <i>pergranulata</i> | Emergent/Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-emergent | Moderate |
| <i>Halosarcia pergranulata</i> ssp. <i>pergranulata</i> / <i>Triglochin striatum</i> shrubland/herbland | <i>Halosarcia pergranulata</i> ssp. <i>pergranulata</i> , <i>Triglochin striatum</i> | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-emergent/Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-low growing | High |
| <i>Paspalum distichum</i> grassland +/- <i>Ruppia polycarpa</i> | <i>Paspalum distichum</i> | Submergent r-selected/Terrestrial damp | Moderate |
| <i>Bolboschoenus caldwellii</i> sedgeland +/- <i>Ruppia polycarpa</i> , <i>Batrachium trichophyllum</i> , <i>Cotula coronopifolia</i> | <i>Bolboschoenus caldwellii</i> | Emergent | Moderate |

| Vegetation Community | Dominant Species | Functional Group | Salinity Tolerance |
|---|-----------------------------|---|--------------------|
| <i>Paspalum distichum</i> grassland +/- <i>Eleocharis acuta</i> | <i>Paspalum distichum</i> | Terrestrial damp | Moderate |
| <i>Ruppia tuberosa</i> submerged herbland | <i>Ruppia tuberosa</i> | Submergent r-selected | High |
| <i>Cotula coronopifolia</i> herbland | <i>Cotula coronopifolia</i> | Amphibious fluctuation responder-plastic | High |
| <i>Eleocharis acuta</i> sedgeland | <i>Eleocharis acuta</i> | Emergent | Moderate |
| <i>Vallisneria spiralis</i> submerged herbland | <i>Vallisneria spiralis</i> | Submergent k-selected | Low |
| <i>Cyperus gymnocaulos</i> sedgeland | <i>Cyperus gymnocaulos</i> | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-emergent | Moderate |
| <i>Phragmites australis</i> grassland | <i>Phragmites australis</i> | Emergent | Moderate |

d.

| Vegetation Community | Dominant Species | Functional Group | Salinity Tolerance |
|--|---|--|--------------------|
| Thick-head Samphire/Marsh Saltbush +/- Shrubby Samphire Low Shrubland | <i>Frankenia pauciflora</i> , <i>Sarcocornia blackiana</i> , <i>Atriplex paludosa</i> , <i>Samolus repens</i> , <i>Suaeda australis</i> | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-emergent/Terrestrial damp | High |
| Salt Bluebush/ Marsh Saltbush Low Shrubland +/- Swamp Paper-bark | <i>Maireana oppositifolia</i> , <i>Plantago coronopus</i> ssp. <i>coronopus</i> , | Terrestrial dry | High |
| Beaded Samphire Low Shrubland +/- Lignum | <i>Sarcocornia quinqueflora</i> , <i>Samolus repens</i> | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-emergent/Terrestrial damp | High |
| Swamp Paper-bark Low Woodland over Sea Rush +/- Salt Club-rush Sedges and Beaded Samphire/ Austral Seablite low shrubs | <i>Melaleuca halmaturorum</i> ssp. <i>halmaturorum</i> , <i>Juncus kraussii</i> | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-woody/Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-emergent | High |
| Lignum Closed Shrubland with Common Reed | <i>Muehlenbeckia florulenta</i> , <i>Phragmites australis</i> | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-woody/Emergent | Moderate |
| Beaded Samphire Low Shrubland over Austral Seablite | <i>Sarcocornia quinqueflora</i> , <i>Suaeda australis</i> | Terrestrial damp | High |
| Austral Seablite Low Shrubland over Creeping Brookweed | <i>Suaeda australis</i> , <i>Samolus repens</i> | Terrestrial damp | High |
| Sea Rush Sedgeland over Creeping Brookweed | <i>Juncus kraussii</i> , <i>Samolus repens</i> | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-emergent/Terrestrial damp | High |
| Swamp Paper-bark Low Closed Forest over Sea Rush | <i>Melaleuca halmaturorum</i> ssp. <i>halmaturorum</i> , <i>Juncus kraussii</i> , <i>Muehlenbeckia florulenta</i> | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-woody/Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-emergent | High |
| Black-seed Samphire Low Shrubland | <i>Tecticornia pergranulata</i> ssp. <i>pergranulata</i> | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-emergent | High |
| Brown-head Samphire Low Shrubland +/- emergent Lignum | <i>Tecticornia indica</i> ssp. <i>leiostachya</i> | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-emergent | High |
| Shrubby Samphire Low Shrubland | <i>Pachycornia arbuscula</i> | Terrestrial dry | High |
| Poorly defined floristic association unified by introduced species, in particular, the grass Salt-water Couch | <i>Paspalum vaginatum</i> | Terrestrial damp | High |
| Salt Club-rush Sedgeland | <i>Bolboschoenus caldwellii</i> | Emergent | Moderate |
| <i>Schoenoplectus pungens</i> sedgeland | <i>Schoenoplectus pungens</i> | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-emergent | High |
| <i>Bolboschoenus caldwellii</i> / <i>Juncus kraussii</i> sedgeland | <i>Bolboschoenus caldwellii</i> , <i>Juncus kraussii</i> | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-emergent/Emergent | Moderate |
| <i>Suaeda australis</i> / <i>Sarcocornia quinqueflora</i> shrubland | <i>Suaeda australis</i> , <i>Sarcocornia quinqueflora</i> | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-emergent/Terrestrial damp | High |
| <i>Ruppia megacarpa</i> submerged herbland | <i>Ruppia megacarpa</i> | Submergent k-selected | High |
| <i>Ruppia tuberosa</i> submerged herbland | <i>Ruppia tuberosa</i> | Submergent r-selected | High |

e.

| Vegetation Community | Dominant Species | Functional Group | Salinity Tolerance |
|---|--|--|--------------------|
| Thick-head Samphire/Marsh Saltbush +/- Shrubby Samphire Low Shrubland | <i>Frankenia pauciflora</i> , <i>Sarcocornia blackiana</i> , <i>Atriplex paludosa</i> , <i>Samolus repens</i> , <i>Suaeda australis</i> , <i>Limonium binervosum</i> | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-emergent/Terrestrial damp | High |
| Salt Bluebush/ Marsh Saltbush Low Shrubland +/- Swamp Paper-bark | <i>Maireana oppositifolia</i> , <i>Plantago coronopus</i> ssp. <i>coronopus</i> , | Terrestrial dry | High |
| Beaded Samphire Low Shrubland over Austral Seablite | <i>Sarcocornia quinqueflora</i> , <i>Suaeda australis</i> | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-emergent/Terrestrial damp | High |
| Black-seed Samphire Low Shrubland | <i>Tecticornia pergranulata</i> ssp. <i>pergranulata</i> | Amphibious fluctuation tolerator-emergent | High |
| <i>Ruppia tuberosa</i> submerged herbland | <i>Ruppia tuberosa</i> | Submergent r-selected | High |