Wallpolla Island Flooding Frequency



Over time, we have changed the way the Murray flows to suit our needs, building weirs, dams and levees. Regional communities have benefited in many ways from river regulation, but it has come at a serious ecological cost.

The Murray River and its floodplains both depend on intermittent flooding to stay healthy. River regulation has caused blockages to flow and reduced the frequency, duration and extent of flood events. We are also seeing increasingly long dry periods between floods, making it harder for floodplains to bounce back.

Environmental water combined with VMFRP infrastructure will help us bring these floodplains back to life. This will benefit all of our river communities – people, plants and animals – as we restore them for generations to come.

Murray River	Semi-permanent & Temporary Wetland	Red Gum Forest & Lignum Shrubland	Black Box Woodland	Alluvial Plain
River flows (ML/d)	60,000	80,000	100,000	120,000+
Pre-regulation flows				
Frequency of flow events (years)	64 in 100	39 in 100	26 in 100	16 in 100
Longest interval between events (years)	3	5.5	10.6	12.6
Current flows (with environmental water entitlements)				
Frequency of flow events (years)	33 in 100	14 in 100	6 in 100	6 in 100
Longest interval between events (years)	8	18.7	20.2	30.7
Flows with VMFRP works*				
Frequency of flow events (years)	60 in 100	35 in 100	25 in 100	15 in 100
Longest interval between events (years)	3	5.5	10.6	12.6

* The VMFRP sites can reduce the longest interval between floods to less than or equal to the maximum pre-regulation interval, depending on ecological thresholds and site condition.