



MEDIA RELEASE

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Banrock Station welcomes flooding

A large area of wetland and floodplain is now inundated at Banrock Station as flooding arrives for the first time in 14 years.

Like most places in the Murray Darling Basin, Banrock Station has been hindered by years of drought, but the flooding will bring enormous benefits to the River Murray and surrounding wetland and floodplain ecology.

In recent years Banrock Station has deliberately dried and flooded its wetlands to mimic natural cycles which stimulate the breeding of native animal and bird species. The natural flooding will now provide what the company has been recreating in its wetland, but on a much larger scale.

“Many of our native aquatic species will only breed in significant numbers in flood conditions, so if it’s been too long between drinks, there may be very few of some species left to breed,” Banrock Station Conservation and Wetland Manager Kate Thorn said.

“The flood will also flush salt out of the system, give plants a big drink of fresh water and, most importantly, deposit a layer of fresh water into the ground, which will sustain trees for several years.”

The flooding is providing spectacular views from the deck of Banrock Station’s Wine and Wetland Centre, with a large expanse of water with islands of higher ground, and lots of healthy trees with a light green halo of new growth.

The boardwalk, which provides unprecedented public access to River Murray wetlands, is a foot under water, however visitors can still use most of Banrock’s walking trails to get an up-close look at the wetland.

“Many birds are enjoying the shallow water and the good pickings to be had in areas which have not been inundated for many years,” Ms Thorn said.

“We have erected temporary bird-viewing screens and a platform to help visitors get closer to the wildlife.”

For further information, or to request images, please contact:

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