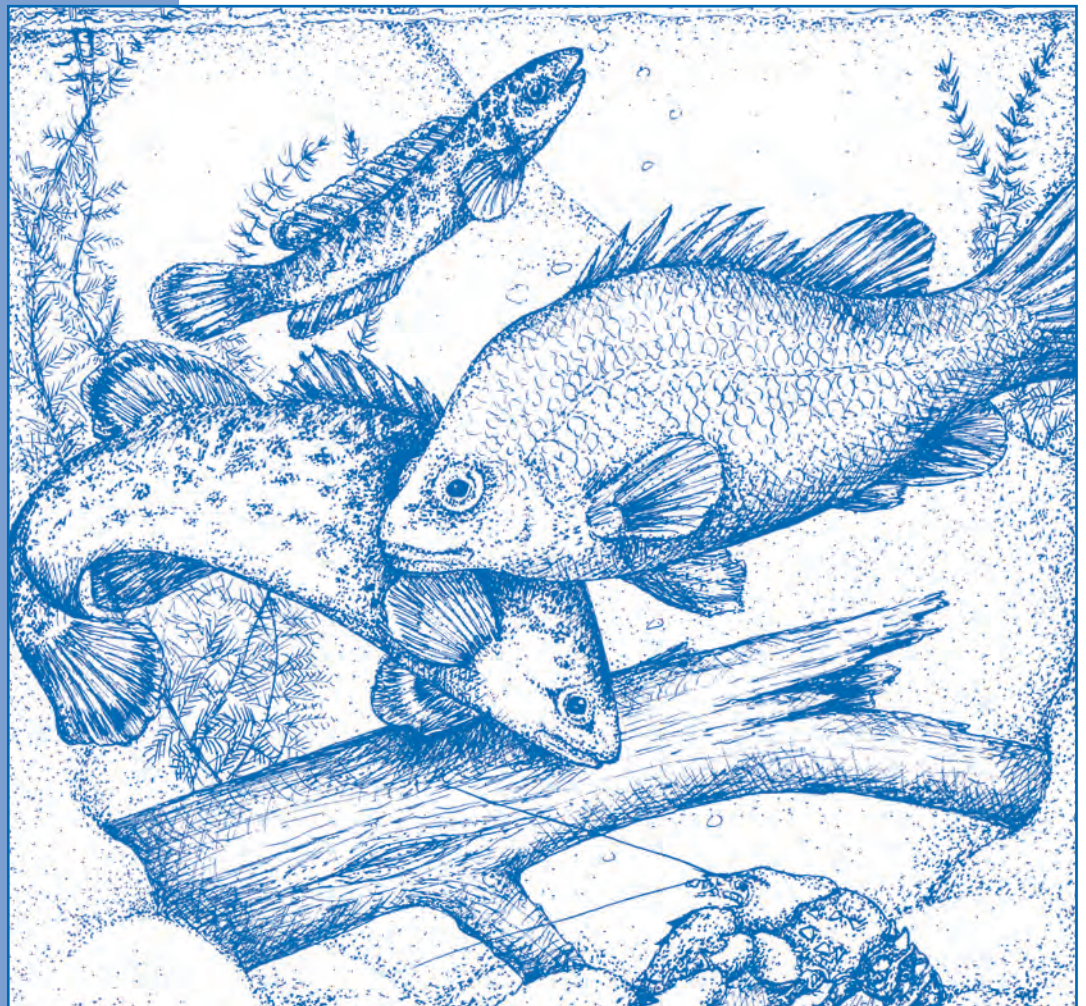


R

ibbons of Life

# ACT Aquatic Species and Riparian Zone Conservation Strategy



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# Vision

The Murrumbidgee and Molonglo rivers in the ACT and their major tributaries make an outstanding contribution to the conservation of aquatic and riparian ecosystems of the upper Murrumbidgee River catchment.

Rivers, streams and their associated riparian zones are special and distinctive parts of the landscape. They are areas where the assemblages of flora and fauna are often quite different to those in the surrounding country. They often also contain particular types of habitat, for example, river gorge sections with rocky cliffs that provide nesting sites for raptors and refuges for plants, and dynamic streambed and river terrace environments that are reworked by seasonal and episodic flooding. Riparian zones provide linear connectivity, demonstrated by their use in annual bird migrations. These paralleled the upstream spawning migrations of fish in the rivers, before dams and weirs blocked their passage. In the Southern Tablelands the river valleys are sheltered environments. The Murrumbidgee River, for example, tracks the deep incision of the Murrumbidgee Geological Fault hundreds of metres below the mountain ranges to the west and is a refuge from the open treeless grasslands and grassy woodlands to the east, an exposed environment in winter.

The central focus of this *Strategy* is on biodiversity and habitat conservation for the rivers and riparian zones, with some consideration of water resource management and recreation (especially recreational fishing) because of their importance in relation to habitat and threatened species conservation. Other natural and cultural values of river sections and adjacent riparian zones include Aboriginal and European cultural heritage, other forms of recreation, aesthetic amenity, educational and special scientific features (e.g. geological sites).

The *Strategy* is an Action Plan for species that occur in ACT rivers and riparian zones and are declared threatened under the *Nature Conservation Act 1980* (ACT).

## **Acknowledgements**

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Kevin Frawley prepared drafts of the report and managed its compilation.

Progress in preparing the *Strategy* was reported to the ACT Flora and Fauna Committee, and individual members provided expert comment and advice.

The cover illustration was prepared by Lesley Wallington.

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## **FURTHER INFORMATION**

Further information on this Action Plan or on threatened species and ecological communities can be obtained from:

The Department of Territory and Municipal Services  
(Environment and Recreation)  
Phone: (02) 6207 2126  
Fax: (02) 6207 2122

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