



Murrumbidgee to Googong Water Transfer Annual Performance Report

**For the period August 2025 to
August 2026**

Version 1.00, September 2026

1 Document management

Document summary

Title	Murrumbidgee to Googong Water Transfer Annual Performance Report 2026
Version	1.00
Document status	Final
Date of issue	October 2026

Document development

	Name	Position	Date
Prepared by	Michael Harrison	Senior Aquatic Monitoring Officer.	14/10/2026
Reviewed by	Tim Chaseling	Team Leader Catchment Protection and Land Management	16/09/2026
Approved by	Benjamin Bryant	Manager Environment and Sustainability	17/09/2026

Version control

Version	Author	Date	Description	Approval
1.00	Michael Harrison	8/10/2026	Original	Benjamin Bryant

© 2026 Icon Water Limited (ABN 86 069 381 960)

This publication is copyright and is the property of Icon Water Limited. The information contained in this publication may not be reproduced in whole or in part to any except with Icon Water Limited's express written consent.

2 Contents

Document summary.....	2
Document development	2
Version control.....	2
1 Introduction	4
1.1 Purpose	4
1.2 Background	4
1.3 M2G Status	4
2. Performance	4
2.1 Performance against Commonwealth Conditions of Approval.....	5
2.2 Performance against Objectives and Targets of the OEMP	6
2.3 Performance Summary Table	8

1 Introduction

1.1 Purpose

This report addresses Commonwealth Condition of Approval No.6 of approval EPBC 2009/5124 for the Murrumbidgee to Googong Water Transfer (M2G) project under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth).

1.2 Background

The Murrumbidgee to Googong Water Transfer (M2G) is a 12km pipeline that enables the pumping of water from the Murrumbidgee River, ACT to Burra Creek, NSW, where it then flows 13 km to the Googong Reservoir. Following regulatory approvals from the Commonwealth, ACT and NSW, pipeline construction commenced in January 2011, and the M2G became operational in September 2012.

1.3 M2G Status

During the reporting period, no water was transferred from the Murrumbidgee River to Burra Creek and Googong Reservoir for water supply purposes. The Murrumbidgee to Googong Water Transfer (M2G) scheme remained in standby mode, with routine inspections, testing and maintenance activities undertaken to ensure the infrastructure remained operational and available for future use.

Two Operate-to-Maintain (OTM) activities were planned during the reporting period, in March 2026 and September 2026. The March OTM activity commenced and transferred approximately 86.5 ML of water through the scheme before being abandoned due to a sensor fault in High Lift Pump 1. The September OTM activity could not be completed due to a fault in the mini-hydro generator hydraulic system.

Prior to each maintenance operation, environmental compliance assessments were completed in accordance with the Operational Environmental Management Plan ([OEMP](#)). These assessments confirmed that

- no outstanding environmental compliance issues or actions existed;
- all relevant streamflow gauging stations were operational;
- environmental flow requirements could be protected;
- Burra Creek flows remained below the applicable geomorphic thresholds;
- water quality conditions were within OEMP trigger values; and
- no significant environmental concerns were identified that would prevent operation.

No amendments to the approved OEMP were made during the reporting period. The OEMP continues to provide the primary framework for environmental management of the M2G scheme. A review of operational procedures relating to protection of environmental flow releases from Tantangara Dam commenced during the reporting period to ensure consistency with broader Upper Murrumbidgee drought planning arrangements.

2. Performance

Icon Water must comply with Commonwealth Condition of Approval No. 6 (Publication Requirements) to provide an Annual Performance Report on the implementation of approval conditions and any plans necessary. The report covers M2G's performance from August 2025 to August 2026.

The performance is evaluated against the objectives and targets specified in Table 4 of the M2G Operation Environmental Management Plan (OEMP) in Section 4.2 and the Commonwealth Conditions of Approval (EPBC 2009/5124) in Section 4.1.

2.1 Performance against Commonwealth Conditions of Approval

CoA Ref#	Requirement	Compliance Status	Comments
1	Submit an Extraction and Gauging Plan	Condition met	The original Plan was approved on March 22, 2012.
1	Implement Extraction & Gauging Plan	Ongoing	An updated Streamflow & Water Quality Management Plan, including the Extraction & Gauging Plan, was approved on August 4, 2014. Variations approved in 2015 and 2018. Implemented throughout the reporting period. OEMP revised in 2021 and approved in 2022 for consolidation.
2	Submit a Sustainable Diversion Limit Plan	Condition met	The original Plan was approved on April 15, 2011.
2	Implement Sustainable Diversion Limit Plan	Ongoing	Incorporated into the updated OEMP approved in 2022. N/A for current operating period.
3	Submit a Biodiversity Management & Offset Plan	Condition met	The original Plan was approved on April 15, 2011.
3	Implement Biodiversity Management & Offset Plan	Ongoing	Incorporated into the updated Offset Delivery Plan in 2012. Implemented throughout the reporting period. OEMP and sub-plans revised in 2018 and consolidated in 2022. ODP remains standalone.
4	Submit a Burra Creek Environmental Management Plan	Condition met	The original Plan was approved in March 2012.
4	Implement Burra Creek Environmental Management Plan	Ongoing	Implemented in the revised OEMP.
5	Prepare and implement a Decommissioning & Closure Plan	N/A	Decommissioning is not anticipated in the medium to long term.
6	Provide Annual Performance Reports and publish them on the Icon Water website	Ongoing	Between 2013 and 2025, Annual Performance Reports were submitted to the Commonwealth and published on Icon Water's external website .
7	Maintain accurate records of activities and make them available on request	Ongoing	Accurate records are kept and are available on request. No data requests were made during the reporting period.
8	Variations must be submitted to the Minister for approval and implemented if approved.	N/A	N/A for current operating period
9	Variations sought by the Minister	N/A	N/A for current operating period
10	Advise the Department of the commencement of construction and operation	Condition met	Construction commenced on 31/01/2011. Operation began on 27/09/12, as advised to the Commonwealth on 04/10/12.
11	Upon direction of the Minister, conduct an independent audit of compliance	N/A	N/A for current operating period

2.2 Performance against Objectives and Targets of the OEMP

Objective	Performance	Target	Current Status / Achievements
1. Minimise environmental impacts during operations and maintenance.	- Implemented the full suite of management plans, including OEMP and Biodiversity Offsets Delivery Plan. - All regulators approved the revised OEMP in February 2022.	- Ensure compliance with OEMP, sub-plans, and environmental regulations. - Maintain up-to-date versions of OEMP and sub-plans. - Report all environmental incidents to authorities.	- Compliance Register maintained throughout the reporting period. - OEMP and supporting plans remained current and available through Icon Water management systems. - Environmental compliance assessments were completed for the planned Operate-to-Maintain activities in March 2026 and September 2026. - Environmental flow, water quality and geomorphic conditions were reviewed prior to each event and found suitable for operation. - No outstanding environmental management actions were identified during the reporting period. - Preliminary review commenced on opportunities to strengthen protection of planned environmental flow releases associated with the Upper Murrumbidgee system. - No environmental incidents associated with M2G operations were recorded during the reporting period
2. Minimise impacts on aquatic ecology.	- Aquatic ecology monitoring is conducted via the Murrumbidgee Ecological Monitoring Program (MEMP).	- Establish baseline data before operation. - Prevent fish impingement and alien species translocation. - Set water quality trigger levels.	- Aquatic ecology risks continued to be managed through implementation of the OEMP and Murrumbidgee Ecological Monitoring Program. - Fish egg filtration systems remained a key control measure to minimise the risk of fish translocation. - Environmental assessments undertaken prior to planned maintenance operations confirmed suitable river and creek conditions. - No aquatic ecology incidents associated with M2G operations were recorded during the reporting period
3. Minimise geomorphological impacts on Burra Creek.	- Implemented OEMP to manage flow volumes and protect geomorphology.	- Establish erosion monitoring before operations. - Implement mitigation if bank erosion detected.	- Prior to each planned maintenance operation, Burra Creek flows were assessed against OEMP thresholds. - Burra Creek flows remained below the 1-in-2-year ARI trigger specified within the OEMP.

	- Monitoring conducted via MEMP.		- No geomorphological impacts associated with M2G operations were identified during the reporting period.
4. Minimise impacts on terrestrial ecology.	- Implemented Landscape Rehabilitation & Terrestrial Ecology Management Plan and Offset Delivery Plan.	- Establish compensatory habitat offset package. - Prevent weed infestation. - Ensure compliance with rehabilitation plans.	- Biodiversity offset and rehabilitation obligations continued to be maintained in accordance with approved plans. - No terrestrial ecological impacts associated with M2G operations were identified during the reporting period
5. Minimise impacts on heritage values.	- Implemented heritage protection measures as per OEMP.	- Prevent erosion impacting heritage sites (e.g., London Bridge). - Prevent complaints related to heritage impacts.	- No impacts to heritage values were identified during the reporting period.
6. Minimise noise and vibration impacts.	- Submitted and received approval for M2G Compliance Noise Assessment (2013).	- Prevent noise/vibration complaints. - Ensure compliance with noise regulations.	- No noise or vibration complaints associated with M2G operations or maintenance activities were received during the reporting period
7. Minimise impact on air quality.	- No dust or odour complaints received during the reporting period.	- Prevent visible dust emissions and offensive odours.	- No dust, odour or air quality complaints associated with M2G operations were received during the reporting period
8. Minimise bushfire hazard and manage risk.	- Implemented Bushfire Management Sub Plan and controls.	- Prevent bushfires during operations and maintenance.	- Bushfire risk controls remained in place and no bushfire incidents associated with M2G infrastructure or operations occurred during the reporting period
9. Respond to community complaints effectively.	- Community Information Plan in place to manage complaints.	- Address noise/vibration complaints promptly.	- No community complaints relating to M2G operations were received during the reporting period
10. Recordkeeping and reporting.	- Maintained records and submitted reports to regulators.	- Submit Annual Performance Reports to the Commonwealth.	- Environmental compliance documentation was completed and retained for all planned maintenance activities, including the March 2026 and September 2026 OTM events. - Annual reporting obligations continued to be met. - Records associated with inspections, maintenance activities and compliance assessments were maintained throughout the reporting period. - All reports published on Icon Water's external website (2013-2026).

2.3 Performance Summary Table

Performance Indicator	2025-26 Result
Water transferred for supply	0 ML
Planned Operate-to-Maintain assessments	2
Operate-to-Maintain assessments completed	0
Water transferred during OTM testing	86.5 ML
Environmental incidents	0
Community complaints	0
OEMP revisions approved	0
Outstanding environmental actions	0

Talk to us

E talktous@water.com.au

T 02 6248 3111

 [@water](https://twitter.com/water)

GPO Box 366,
Canberra ACT 2601

iconwater.com.au