

## **Glossary for 'Run of the River'**

**Algal Bloom:** A condition which occurs when excessive nutrient levels and other physical and chemical conditions facilitate rapid growth of algae. Algal blooms may cause changes in water colour, smell and toxicity. The decay of the algal bloom may reduce dissolved oxygen levels in the water.

**Aquatic:** Pertaining to water; a plant or animal that lives in the water, whether it be freshwater, seawater or brackish (a combination of both)

**Aquifer:** A layer of underground sediments which holds water and allows water to flow through it.

**Billabong:** A section of cut-off stream channel usually on a floodplain.

**Bore:** A hole drilled into the ground that allows the piping of an underground water source (aquifer)

**Catchment:** The region which drains all the rainfall, other that removed by evaporation, into a stream, which then carries the water to a sea or a lake.

**Culverts:** A pipe that syphons water from one point to another, particularly used to protect infrastructure such as roads from flooding rain events

**Dam:** A human constructed basin for collecting water. This can mean the digging out of a large hole or in large dams, a structure built across a watercourse to maintain water levels and confine and keep back flowing water.

**Ecology:** The study of the interrelation between living organisms and the environment

**Environmental flow:** The flow regime required to maintain rivers in a healthy condition. Includes components of the flow regime such as minimum flows, floods and flushing flows

**Environmental Water Reserve:** The share of water resources set aside to maintain the environmental values of a water system and other water services which are dependant on the environmental condition of the system.

**Estuary:** A semi-enclosed coastal water body where salt from the sea mixes with freshwater in a river.

**Exotic species:** Term used to describe organisms (plants & animals) that do not originally come from Australia

**Fish barrier:** An artificial obstacle in a river (eg: a dam wall, weir or culvert) that affects (halts or delays) fish migration

**Fish Ladder:** A construction that allows fish to swim around a man-made obstacle in a river/. The construction design can include a series of ascending pools, or a gently sloping channel made up of a series of cells separated by small vertical slots.

**Floodplain:** A flat area adjacent to a stream that is covered by floods every year or two.

**Flow regime:** The pattern of the flow of water in a river over time. All elements of a river's pattern of flow are important – timing (when), duration (how long) and flow frequency (how often)

**Flushing Flow:** An artificial flood to remove sediments or to prevent narrowing of the channel.

**Geomorphology:** The study of landforms and the processes that shape them.

**Groundwater:** All subsurface water, generally occupying the pores and crevices of rock and soil

**Habitat:** An area in which a specific plant or animal naturally lives, grows and reproduces; the area that provides a plant or animal with adequate food, water, shelter and living space

**Irrigation:** Irrigation in agriculture is the replacement or supplementation of rainfall with water from another source in order to grow crops. In contrast, agriculture that relies only on direct rainfall is sometimes referred to as dry land farming

**Levee bank:** A raised embankment along the edge of a river channel. Natural levees result from periodic over bank flooding, when coarser sediment is immediately deposited because of the reduction in river velocity. Levee banks are often constructed by humans living in low-lying areas as protection against flooding.

**Macro-invertebrate:** An invertebrate (animal without a backbone) that is visible with the naked eye.

**Native species:** Organisms (plant and animals) originally living or growing in a certain place

**Nutrients:** Substances required for the growth of plants, eg nitrogen and phosphorus

**Organic material:** Any material which originated as a living organism (eg: compost, manure)

**Regeneration:** Renewal of vegetation (grasses, shrubs, trees) by natural or artificial means

**Regulated River:** A river system where the flow of a river is controlled by releasing water from large dams or weirs

**Run-off:** The discharge of water derived from rain or snow falling on a surface

**Run of the River:** The natural flow generated from rainfall run-off in the catchment. As distinct from the flow that is 'regulated' by controlled releases from dams or weirs to supply water to downstream users

**Salinity:** The concentration of ions dissolved in water

**Sedimentation:** The deposition or settling out of suspended soil particles from the water column.

**Stormwater:** Rainwater that runs off roofs, roads, car parks, gardens and footpaths into stormwater drains and flow into our creeks, rivers and bays

**Stratification:** The division of water in rivers, estuaries and bays into layers with different compositions (for example: temps, salinity and oxygen levels)

**Tributary:** A stream that discharges into a main river

**Unregulated River:** A river system where no major dams or weirs have been built on a river to assist in the supply or extraction of water.

**Weir:** A dam across a river