



James Maguire – MWWG Executive Member Profile

James Maguire is a member of the NSW Murray Wetlands Working Group's Executive and has been a committee member for three years.

James is currently the Senior Wetland and Rivers Conservation Officer, South West Region, with the NSW Department of Environment and Climate Change and is based in Albury. James works in the Murrumbidgee, Murray and Lower Murray/Darling Catchments.

Prior to this James was the Wetlands Officer with the NSW Department of Natural Resources – Murrumbidgee Region and was a longstanding member of the Murrumbidgee Wetlands Working Group.

James has worked for the NSW Government in the area of wetland management and environmental flow monitoring/management for the last 14 years.

"I have always been interested in wildlife, particularly frogs and reptiles and I have been an amateur herpetologist for the last 20 years. This interest led me to completing an Environmental Science Degree at Charles Sturt University".

James spent many years monitoring wetland responses to inundation with environmental flows, as part of the state wide Integrated Monitoring of Environmental Flows (IMEF) Program lead by the Department of Natural Resources.

"Looking back it was a great experience wading through the lagoons among the dense growth of spike rushes, water lilies and other aquatic plants, watching the waterbirds feeding and nesting. Turtles, tadpoles and small native wetland fish could be seen through the clear waters of some of the well vegetated sites. At night the chorus of

numerous frog species in their collective hundreds was deafening"

"At the time I took it for granted that there would always be water in some of our selected study sites. Now the previously permanent lagoons have been dry for 4 years and the intermittent sites have seen no water for 10 - 13 years."

James is currently involved in the "Lowbidgee" Water Management Planning process, particularly focussed on environmental water provisions for the nationally significant "Lowbidgee" wetlands.

"I am optimistic that the State and Federal water buyback programs, combined with existing environmental water provisions, will produce enough water to bring the wetlands back to a point of long term sustainability"



James pictured next to his own wetland Jims Swamp.

CONTACT DETAILS:

James Maguire
 Address: PO Box 544, Albury
 NSW 2640
 Phone: 02 6022 0604
 Email: james.maguire@environment.com.au

"Working with wetlands and environmental flow management can be extremely rewarding, but also very frustrating during a succession of extreme drought years. Supporting the sustainability of our river and wetlands is my top priority."

Executive Member