



THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

“An ACT perspective: fat, lazy fish don’t jump”

16th November 2010

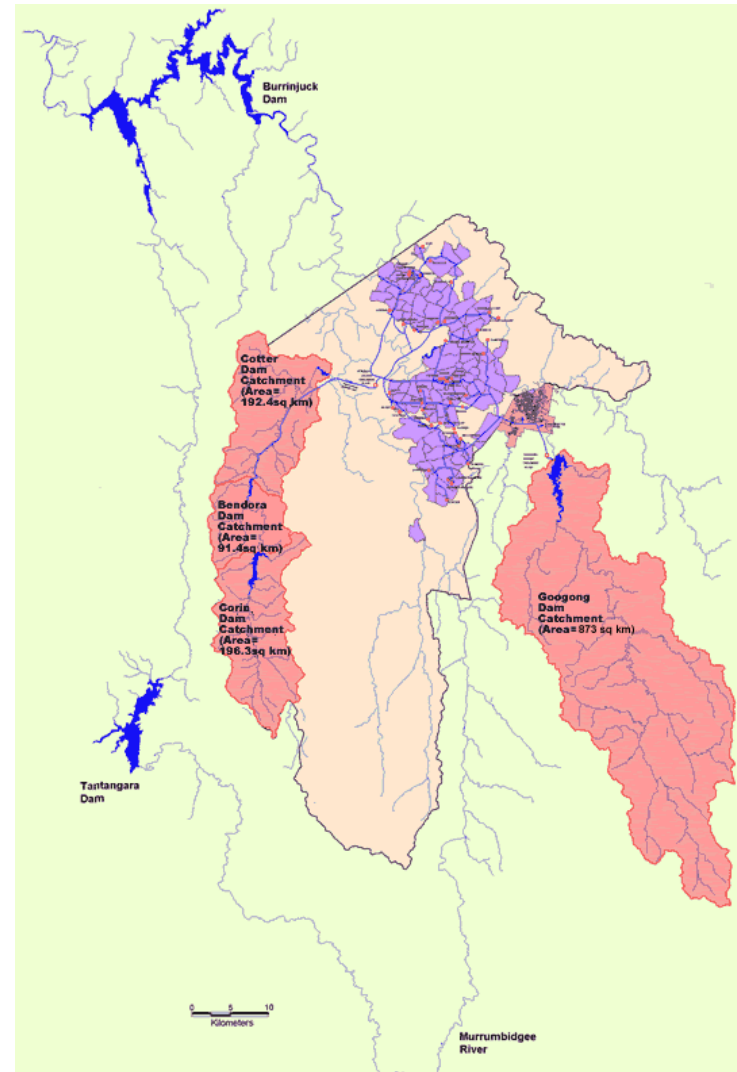
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ACT = Paradise?

- **Wealthy**
- **Well educated**
- **Largely catchment-based administration**
- **Only two tiers of government**
- **Regional scale of government**



The five behemoths?



- **Snowy Hydro**
- **NSW Government**
- **ACTEW**
- **ACT Government**
- **Federal Government**

- 23. Full implementation of this Agreement will result in
 - ii) transparent, statutory-based water planning;
 - iii) statutory provision for *environmental and other public benefit outcomes*, and improved environmental management practices;
 - iv) complete the return of all currently overallocated or overused systems to *environmentally-sustainable levels of extraction*
- 26. The Parties agree that the general approach to implementing the entitlements and allocation framework will be to:
 - i) substantially complete plans to address any existing overallocation for all river systems and groundwater resources in accordance with commitments under the 1994 COAG water reform framework by 2005
- 36. Recognising that settling the trade-offs between competing outcomes for water systems will involve judgements informed by best available science, socio-economic analysis and community input, statutory *water plans* will be prepared for surface water and groundwater management units in which entitlements are issued

Snowy River restoration

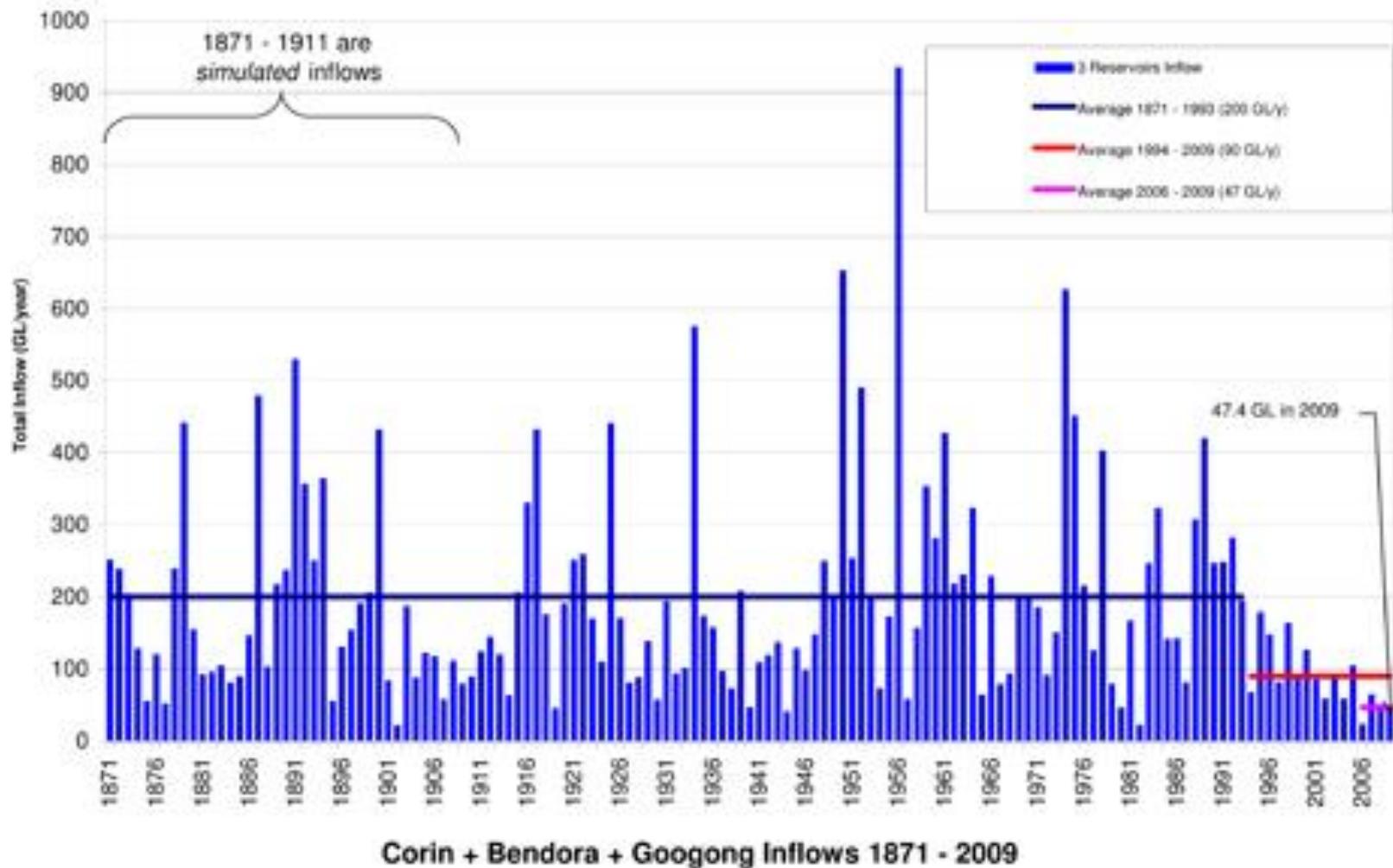


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Jindabyne Dam: \$90 M works + \$375 M water

- **Snowy River flows: 2002 Implementation Deed - 2% to 21% or 28%**
- **Upper Murrumbidgee River? 1-2% to what?**
- **2002 Implementation Deed: “Snowy Montane Rivers Increased Flows up to the following maximum volumes ... during the period from the first anniversary of the Corporatisation Date until the Water Year with respect to which the Snowy River Apportioned Entitlement first totals or exceeds 142 GL” (years 1-7)**
- **Have any environmental flows been released from Tantangara Dam?**
- **Transparency and accountability?**

Inflows into ACTEW storages



Response: increase supply

ACT water supply diagram

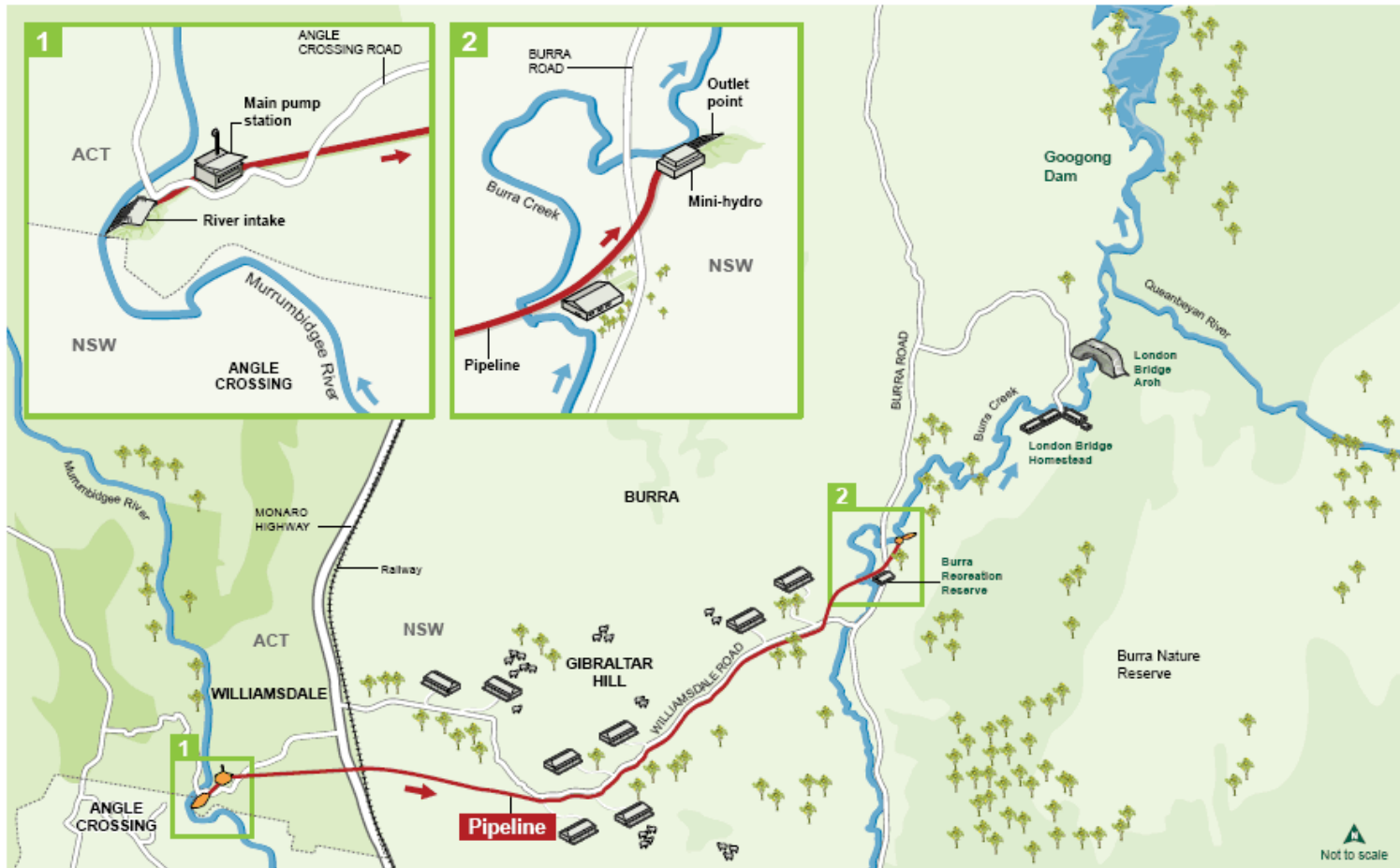


The border!

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New Cotter Dam plus Murrumbidgee transfer =
~\$600 M.

Murrumbidgee – Googong transfer



Murrumbidgee to Googong Water Transfer – project diagram

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Fat, lazy fish don't jump ...

Macquarie Perch (*Macquaria australasica*)



© ACTEW

Murray Cod (*Maccullochella peelii peelii*)

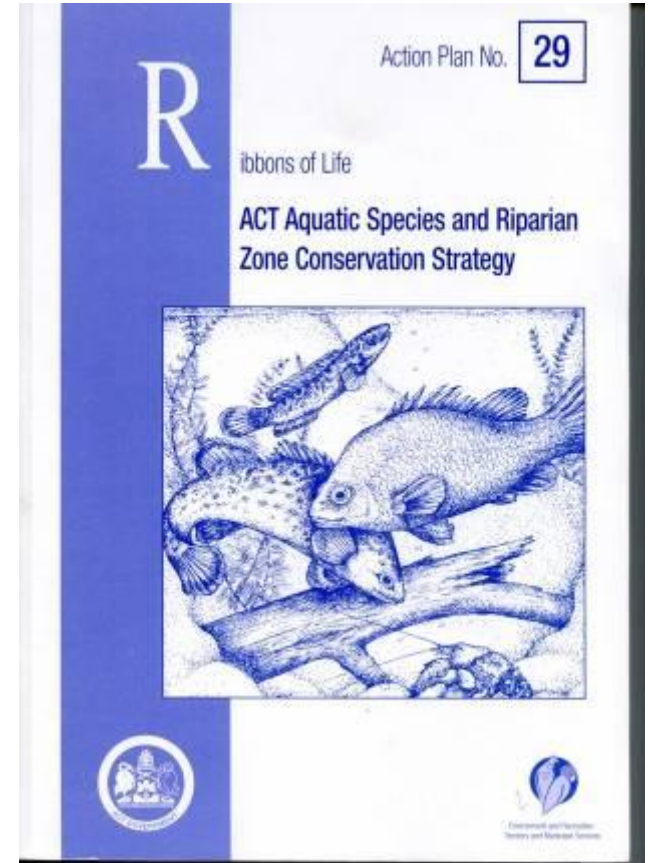


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Angle Crossing



© ACTEW



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Angle Crossing causeway: an obstruction to fish passage 96% of the time



- **Directly manages Scrivener Dam & Lake Burley Griffin**
- **Approved ACT water security projects despite questionable NWI compliance**
- **Quiescent on the Snowy Implementation Deed**



Tumut 3 1500 MW pumped hydro storage system in the Snowy Mountains © A Blakers

- **Energy generation and storage, eg. pumped storage hydropower**
 - **Carbon sequestration, eg. afforestation**
 - **Adaptation, eg. on farm dams**
- > Is the region really prepared?**

All is not well in paradise:

- **Big corporates in small ponds**
- **Competing corporate styles: silence vs spin**
- **Gaps between jurisdictions**
- **Governments failing to work as unitary actors**
- **ACT & Federal Government inaction**
- **Few sticks and carrots, eg. NWI, eg. third party enforcement**
- **Supply side approach - little preparation for future changes**