

Dec 13th, 3:40 PM - 5:00 PM

# Fish on the run: facilitating fish passage from drying floodplains

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# Fish on the run: facilitating fish passage from drying floodplains



Ivor Stuart  
And  
Clayton Sharpe



Environment,  
Land, Water  
and Planning

- i. Floodplains: a threatened habitat
- ii. Exit hydrograph and Gunbower floodplain
- iii. Fishway trapping during floodplain drawdown
- iv. Conclusion



# Gunbower floodplain



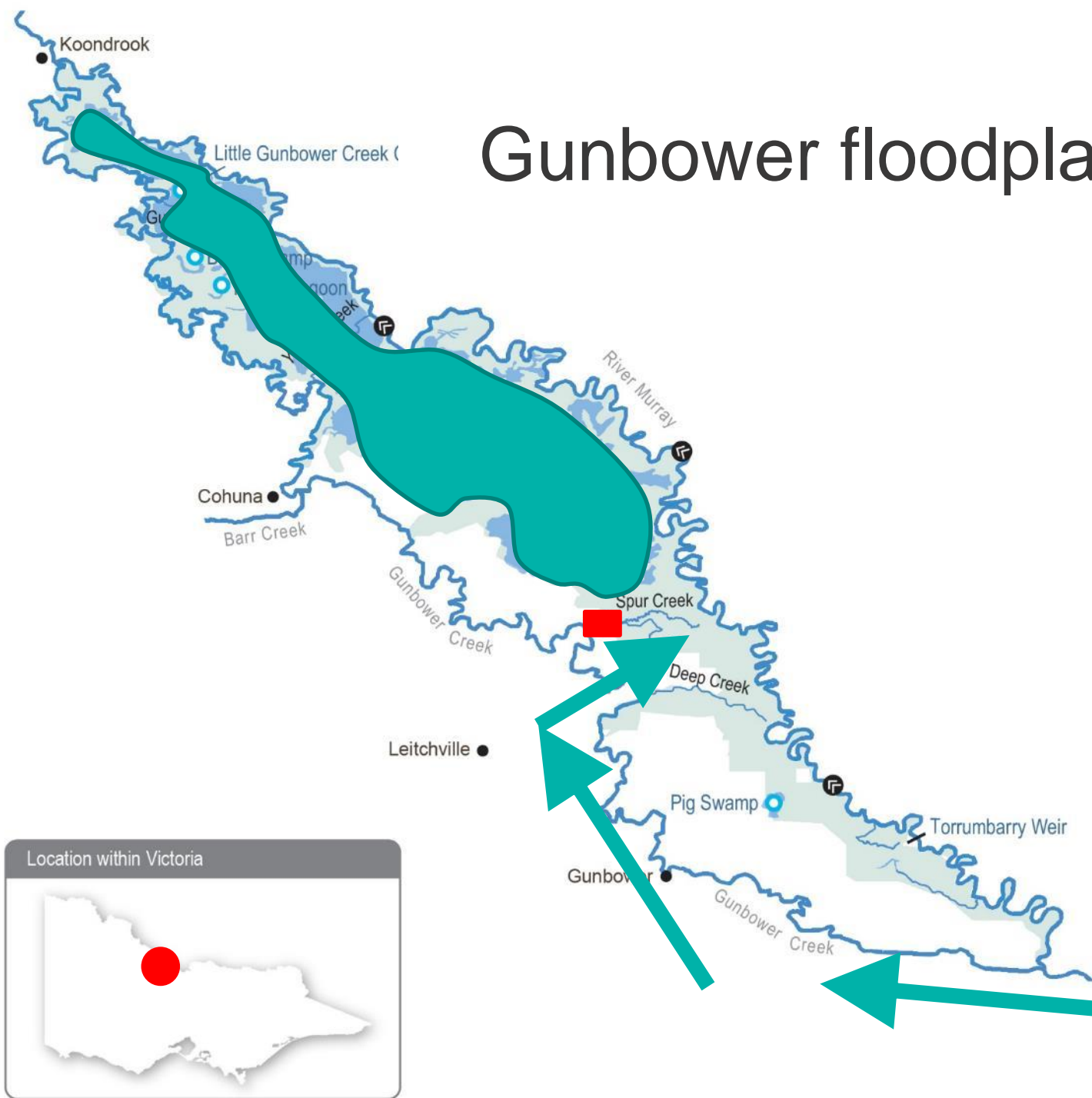
# Gunbower floodplain



**Objective: To determine whether an exit hydrograph facilitates fish 'out-migration' – *to move fish and floodplain productivity back to main channel***



# Gunbower floodplain



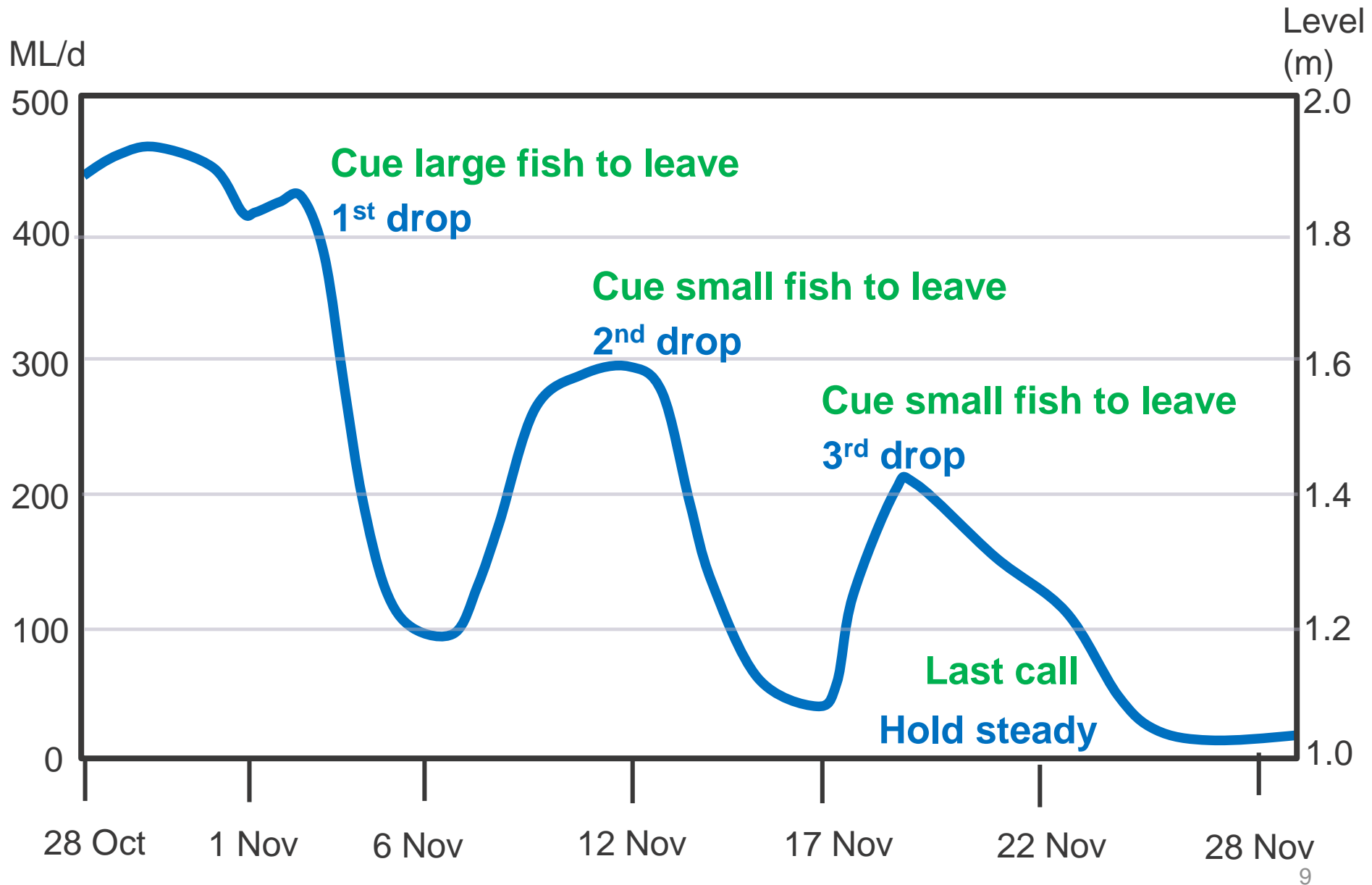


# Fish lock trapping during exit hydrograph

- 2 h trapping events at fishway exit



# Exit hydrograph



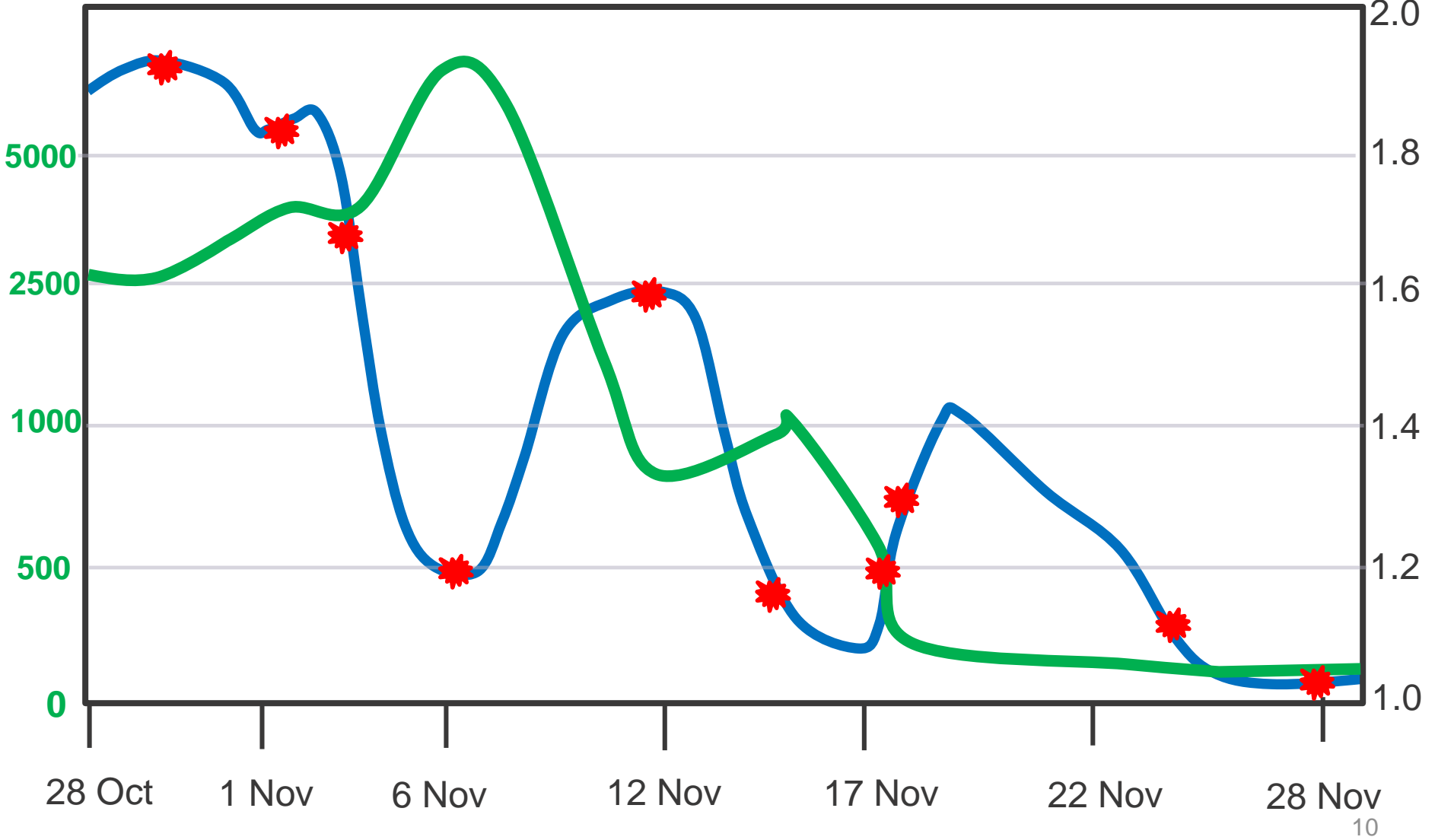
2014

# Australian smelt



Numbers  
10000

Level  
(m)  
2.0



2014

# Carp gudgeons



2014

# Carp

Numbers

40000

10000

5000

2000

500

0

28 Oct

1 Nov

6 Nov

12 Nov

17 Nov

22 Nov

28 Nov

12

Level  
(m)

2.0

1.8

1.6

1.4

1.2

1.0



2014

- Fish **can** be cued to exit the floodplain with small drops in flow
- Carp respond differently and there may be a management opportunity
- Broader application of the exit hydrograph to move floodplain fish and productivity back to main channel
- Providing passage of 'common' small-bodied fish is a site specific decision but is necessary for floodplain-river connections (& coastal rivers)

# Thanks to

## North Central CMA

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