



# Save the Murray

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## Tourism



Nature-based tourism is a major part of the Australian tourism industry and contributes significantly to our economy. The River Murray plays a large role in tourist activities such as house boating, bird watching and water skiing. Tourism development in the Murray-Darling Basin needs careful management to ensure the rivers are used in a sustainable manner.

When enjoying the River Murray, it is important to minimise your impacts on the environment and enjoy the natural surroundings without causing environmental degradation. By following a few simple guidelines, we can all help to ensure that the environment remains in good condition for you and others to enjoy in the future.

### **The following considerations need to be observed;**

- Always take your rubbish home with you. If you find someone else has left rubbish behind, take it with you. Food scraps can be harmful to native animals and some wastes do not decompose quickly. Don't burn or bury rubbish.
- Where there is a toilet, please use it. In areas without toilets, bury your waste, at least 100 metres

away from campsites and watercourses. Dig a hole 15 cm deep, bury all waste and paper, mixing it with the soil to help decomposition and discourage animals.

- Camp in designated areas or existing campsites where possible, in natural clearings or on sandy or hard surfaces at least 20 metres from the edge of the watercourse.
- Observe all fire restrictions and extinguish camp fires completely. Do not cut trees for firewood or gather fallen timber, as these provide valuable habitat for animals and plants, and are an important part of ecosystem processes. If you must have a fire, bring your own wood from a sustainable source.
- Respect wildlife and keep it wild. Stop and look, but never disturb, feed or chase animals.
- Wetlands and vegetated dunes are very fragile environments that are easily damaged, please avoid them.
- When boating try to minimise boat wash to avoid damage to riverbanks. Avoid disturbing birds by keeping away from reeds where birds could be nesting. Care should be taken to avoid snags, which provide valuable habitat and breeding areas for fish and other aquatic organisms.
- Take only photographs and leave only footprints.

### **Respecting Indigenous Heritage**

Many places have spiritual or cultural significance for our Indigenous communities. Treat such places with consideration and respect. Obtain permission from the traditional landowners or the relevant land manager to visit sensitive areas. Leave Indigenous relics as you find them. Do not touch paintings or rock engravings.