

At this morning's Inquiry into the Water Legislation Amendment (Inspector-General of Water Compliance and Other Measures) Act 2021, Senator McCarthy asked the Nature Conservation Council to provide evidence of water bird decline in the Murray Darling Basin, and the link to the loss of wetlands.

Please find links to the Eastern Australian Waterbird Aerial Survey that has been undertaken every year since 1983 by Professor Richard Kingsford from the University NSW Centre for Ecosystem Science.

Summary after the 2020 survey:

<https://www.ecosystem.unsw.edu.au/news/drought-breaking-rains-not-enough-boost-wetland-bird-numbers>

The 2021 survey report has not yet been finalised, but [here is a media story from 7/11/21](#)

Here is the site for the entire 38 years of the study

<https://www.ecosystem.unsw.edu.au/research-projects/rivers-and-wetlands/waterbirds/eastern-australian-waterbird-survey>

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**Nature Conservation Council**

The voice for nature in NSW

[Become a Voice for Nature](#) to protect the water we drink, the air we breathe and the places we love.

I acknowledge the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the lands and waters of Australia. I pay my respects to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders past and present, and aspire to learn from their traditional knowledge to help nature thrive.