



Australian Government
Australian Research Council

MEDIA LEAD

Linkage Projects Round Two **For funding commencing in 2010**

South Australia

South Australia will receive \$4,731,983 for 18 Linkage Projects.

The Flinders University of South Australia will receive \$405,000 over three years for the following project:

Restoration genetics of five endangered fish species from the Murray-Darling Basin (LP100200409)

Extended drought and environmental degradation have caused unprecedented loss of aquatic biodiversity in the Murray-Darling Basin (MDB), Australia's most important agricultural region.

This project will use powerful DNA data to implement critically important programs of captive breeding, restoration biology and landscape genetics for two endangered and three critically endangered freshwater fish species from the lower MDB.

The study will prevent extinctions of irreplaceable biodiversity (including a potentially undescribed species), identify factors influencing genetic diversity in the wild and promote environmental policies and education about water crisis and biodiversity loss.

The project's system of five replicate species also provides the opportunity to address central questions in conservation biology, including the fate of adaptive and neutral genetic diversity in captive breeding programs and in recently reintroduced populations.

It will provide major benefits to the broader Australian community by addressing Commonwealth Government policies regarding sustainable water management in rural areas, biodiversity protection and recovery of threatened species.

The study will also increase the research profile of Australia in the international scientific community by improving our understanding about genetic diversity in captive breeding and restoration programs.

Media contacts

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