

## From the Fisher's Mouth

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Where to fish when your favourite spot is unfishable due to flooding? You can stay at home and wait until the water drops and clears, or use the opportunity to explore some new waters further afield.

The deluge of rain has turned the Murrumbidgee into a raging, muddy torrent, full of sticks, leaves and other debris. As the rain was reasonably localised in the mid-Murrumbidgee, there are possibilities to fish the lower Murrumbidgee and get in front



of the flood waters. If you can position yourself a day or two ahead of the rising flood waters, typically the fish bite very well. The difficult part is trying to work out where the head of the floodwater is at a given time. Things can change very quickly so it pays to travel lightly so you can pack up and move further downstream if the floodwaters catch up to you.

When faced with a flooded stream you need to target the edges of the river. The fish move out of the main flow seeking shelter along the shore where the current isn't as fast and the floating debris less likely to cause physical injury to the fish. Bait fishing is the preferred method for fishing flooded rivers with lure fishing best left to when the water clears up.

Remember not to cast far from shore, as the fish are seeking refuge in the slow water and are often no more than a metre from the bank. Small creeks and inlets are also prime locations as the fish move out of the main river.

Boating in a flooded river is significantly more hazardous than when the water is low. Increased turbidity does not allow you to see submerged objects and there are sticks and logs floating everywhere. The high flow can easily flip a boat over if you get side on to the current, so unless you are a very experienced navigator, stay on the shore.

Destinations such as Blowering and Mulwala aren't as badly impacted by the rain, and both locations are fishing well, so if the river is a bit too scary, one of the lakes may be a safer option.