

Position Description

Murray Lower Darling Rivers Indigenous Nations (MLDRIN) Aboriginal Water Officer (Cultural Flows)

Please note: This position is open to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander applicants only. MLDRIN considers that being Aboriginal or a Torres Strait Islander is a genuine occupational requirement for this position under s 28 of the Equal Opportunity Act 2010 (Vic).

Summary

- Work with communities to apply exciting new research tools that support First Nations to advance their water rights, sustain culture and build livelihoods.
- You'll work as part of a 100% Aboriginal-owned, not-for-profit organisation with 20 years experience in advocating for Indigenous water rights
- Full time position, 38 hrs per week.
- Salary: \$82,000, plus super, CPI increase and on-costs
- Three year contract
- Work vehicle provided
- Based in MLDRIN's Melbourne office with opportunities for flexible work and travel

Detailed Position Description

Here's a rare opportunity to work with First Nations to undertake ground-breaking research and drive policy innovation in water management. The Aboriginal Water Officer will lead MLDRIN's implementation of the [National Cultural Flows Research Project](#) in the Southern Murray-Darling Basin. This means working on Country with diverse Aboriginal groups to document cultural values of waterways and develop management plans that advance community aspirations. A key goal of this research is to achieve ownership of water entitlements for First Nations, to support cultural, environmental, social and economic outcomes. But this is about much more than just water. It's also about sustaining culture, supporting health and well-being and building livelihoods for First Nations people.

The Aboriginal Water Officer will also pursue options for policy and legal reform that give effect to First Nations' water rights, working in collaboration with First Nations, government, NGOs and the water sector. The successful candidate will work alongside MLDRIN's three existing staff and in close collaboration with the Chair and Board.

About the Cultural Flows research

The [National Cultural Flows Research Project](#) is a major interdisciplinary research project designed to secure a future where Aboriginal water rights are embedded in Australia's water rights and management framework. MLDRIN is a lead partner in the research, alongside the Northern Basin Aboriginal Nations (NBAN). In 2018, the research project was completed, providing a suite of tools and recommendations that lay the groundwork for improved Aboriginal access to water resources in Australia. In May 2018, the Australian Government committed funding for MLDRIN and NBAN to employ dedicated staff and begin implementing the outcomes of the research. The Aboriginal Water Officer will draw the research tools and reports to develop on-ground projects and explore policy and legal reform options.

Specific duties

The Aboriginal Water Officer will work to translate the results of the National Cultural Flows Research into tangible outcomes by:

- Collaborating with First Nations in the Southern Basin to identify aspirations and priorities for utilising the Cultural Flows research
- Designing and implementing on-ground projects that employ the Cultural Flows research tools to identify First Nations watering objectives and requirements
- Supporting First Nations to build capacity and undertake research and waterway assessment projects
- Identifying and pursuing opportunities for funding to support projects
- Building networks within government, NGOs, research institutions and the water sector to support the expanded roll-out of the cultural flows research
- Researching and advocating for innovative legislative and policy reform that gives effect to First Nations rights and aspirations to access water
- Researching and advocating for appropriate governance and management arrangements for water holdings acquired by First Nations and Aboriginal organisations
- Exploring synergies with existing Aboriginal water projects and waterway assessment tools such as the Aboriginal Waterways Assessment tool
- Undertaking general research on cultural flows and First Nations' water rights and preparing submissions, briefing papers and reports.

The position will require regular travel throughout Victoria, Southern NSW and South Australia. A vehicle will be provided for work-related travel.

Selection Criteria

Required

- A strong understanding of the activities and objectives of MLDRIN and demonstrated understanding of the National Cultural Flows Research Project

- At least three years experience in the water management and planning sector or related natural resource management sectors
- Demonstrated experience in project management
- Proven ability to produce high-quality written reports, submissions and communications
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills; ability to work within a complex team environment requiring sensitivity, confidentiality and privacy
- Proven ability to prioritise, organise workloads and meet deadlines.
- Familiarity with a wide range of computer based applications (including Microsoft Office Word and Excel) and a willingness to learn new software programs as required
- Willingness to undertake regular travel, work outdoors, and engage with a wide variety of Traditional Owners and stakeholders
- Demonstrated cultural awareness and understanding of cultural protocols informing work with Traditional Owner communities
- Current full Australian driver's licence and Working with Children check

Desirable:

- Proven ability to prepare grant applications, complete projects and acquire funding
- Active connections and working relationships with Traditional Owner organisations within MLDRIN's region.

There will be a probationary period of three months.

Please send applications addressing all selection criteria and including a cover letter and resume to:

Email: executiveofficer.mldrin@gmail.com

Post: MLDRIN, Post Office Box 5005

Brunswick North VIC 3056

Applications must be submitted by: COB Friday 11th January 2019

Please direct any questions you may have about this project to executiveofficer.mldrin@gmail.com