



Meeting Update

Murray Lower Darling Rivers Indigenous Nations

Meeting Details: MLDRIN Board Meeting
Date: 24 th and 25 th May 2018
Venue: Hovell Tree Inn, Albury NSW

Attendance

Members: Kingsley Abdullah, Rene Woods (Chair), Stephen Atkinson (Deputy Chair), Grant Rigney (Secretary), Stewart Taylor (Treasurer), Coral Peckham, Alice Williams, Will Mooney (Executive Officer)

Non-Board Members: Kaleana Reyland (Projects and Engagement Officer), Likarra Morgan (Administration Officer). **MDBA Staff:** Murray Radcliffe, Lesley Dan, Tariq Ali, Sophie Taylor. **Productivity Commission:** Jane Doolan, John Madden

Key issues discussed:

- The Board reviewed nominations for Membership from Wadi Wadi, Latji Latji, Weragaia, Wiradjuri, Mutthi Mutthi and the First People's of the River Murray and Mallee.
- The Board discussed options for simplifying and communicating the nomination process for new members
- The Board discussed the need for all existing delegates to provide documentation of ongoing endorsement by Nations.
- The outcomes of a recent Commonwealth agreement, allocating \$40 Million to support purchase of water for First Nations and \$1.5 Million for roll out of cultural flows research. Board members discussed a preferred approach to delivery and holding of that funding.
- Water Resource Plan development and accreditation: the Board and MDBA staff discussed ongoing concerns regarding consultations with First Nations in NSW and Victoria. The Chair and staff are participating in fortnightly meetings with MDBA to discuss consultation and assessment of plans.
- All MLDRIN Delegates will be engaged to participate in assessment of Water Resource Plans (WRPs) as States submits them. The Board asks all Delegates to keep up to date about development of WRPs - more information is available by contacting the Executive Officer or Project and Engagement Officer.
- Jane Doolan, John Madden and staff of the Productivity Commission met with the Board to discuss their 5 year assessment of the Basin Plan. Board members highlighted key issues including water resource plan development and the SDL Adjustment Mechanism.

- The Board undertook Strategic Planning exercises, including an internal Board Review and a SWOT analysis. Results will be built into a new MLDRIN Strategic Plan.
- Murray Darling Basin Authority staff provided updates on:
 - Changes within the Aboriginal Partnerships team. There have been some staff changes and Murray Radcliffe is now acting Director of the team.
 - The inclusion of First Nations' views about groundwater in water resource plans
 - Development of Aboriginal Environmental Priorities guidance for the development of the Annual Environmental Watering Priorities
 - WRP assessment: MDBA has committed to fund assessment of WRPs.
 - Process for delivery of funding included in the recent SDL Adjustment Agreement: MDBA committed to facilitating engagement between MLDRIN and the Department of Agriculture to discuss options for delivery.

Key resolutions and decisions:

- The Board reviewed and endorsed the Minutes of the previous Board meetings (February and April 2018), Correspondence Register and Finance Reports
- New Nominations for Membership from Wadi Wadi, Latji Latji, Weragaia, Wiradjuri and the First People's of the River Murray and Mallee were reviewed, endorsed and referred to the next Full Delegation meeting for final approval.
- The Board will seek a notice of re-nomination from all current Delegates (this will be in the form of a letter confirming their ongoing appointment by the Nation)
- Endorsed a renewed process for the inclusion of Aboriginal objectives in the Annual Environmental Watering priorities.
- The Board endorsed a request for support from Roger Davis to support the implementation of funding under the recent SDL Adjustment Agreement
- The Board set meeting dates for 2018/19

Key upcoming dates

MLDRIN Board Meetings

16th and 17th August Balranald, NSW
 21st and 22nd February, Bendigo, VIC
 6-7th June 2019, Goolwa SA

MLDRIN Full Gatherings:

15-17th November, Leeton NSW
 11th and 12th April 2019, Canberra ACT

If you have any questions about anything raised in this update please feel free to contact Will Mooney on **0404 163 700** or email: executiveofficer.mldrin@gmail.com