



## Meeting Update

### Murray Lower Darling Rivers Indigenous Nations

**Meeting Details:** MLDRIN Board Meeting

**Date:** 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> June 2017

**Venue:** Hovell Tree Inn, Albury NSW

#### Attendance

Coral Peckham (Wiradjuri), Stewart Taylor (Wamba Wamba), Alice Willimas (Wolgalu), Rene Woods (Nari Nari), Grant Rigney (Ngarrindjeri), Kingsley Abdullah (Maraura), Will Mooney (Executive Officer).

Apologies: Marcus Stewart (Taungurung), Stephen Atkinson (Wadi Wadi)

#### Key issues discussed:

- Directors reviewed and endorsed the minutes of the previous Board meeting
- Financial update and correspondence were tabled
- Directors discussed MLDRIN's role in partnering with CMA's, water corporations and other government agencies. Directors agreed that MLDRIN's role should be to support direct engagement with the appropriate Traditional Owner groups.
- Directors discussed proposed changes to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005 which could see the Indigenous Land Corporation (ILC) able to fund water related activities. Grant Rigney was nominated to attend a briefing in Melbourne.
- Directors discussed procedures for ensuring confidentiality and reporting conflict of interest and agreed to include a standing item on all future agendas.
- Directors discussed options for placement of a MLDRIN office, and for working arrangements for new staff.
- Directors received an update on Component 5 of the National Cultural Flows Research Project, and agreed to establish a reference committee to guide this important piece of work.
- Directors discussed the anniversary of the Echuca Declaration and options for an event to celebrate the date. Directors wished to include and acknowledge key participants and leaders who contributed to the Declaration. MLDRIN will continue to engage with Yorta Yorta Nation about holding an event in Echuca in November 2017.
- Directors reviewed proposed amendments to the MLDRIN Constitution. The Board decided to postpone discussion to allow for a full day at the next Board

meeting.

- Directors discussed appointments for the Stakeholder Advisory Panel for the Lachlan Water Resource Plan.
- Directors reviewed and endorsed text for a case study of watering in the Gunbower Forest to be included in the 2017 Basin Annual Environmental Watering Priorities.

### Key resolutions and decisions:

- Directors endorsed position descriptions for an Administration Officer and Projects and Engagement Officer, supported by funding from the Victorian Government. The Board also established a recruitment process and interview panel for the positions.
- The Board endorsed and signed a new 4 year funding agreement with the Murray Darling Basin Authority
- The Board endorsed an Attendance and Remuneration policy, to provide transparent information about costs for Directors' attendance at meetings organised by external agencies
- Directors determined a preferred allocation of funding held by the National Cultural Flows Research Project and agreed to write to the Project chair and ask for release of the funds
- Directors approved an application for membership from Monica Morgan, Yorta Yorta Nation

### Key upcoming dates

- 17<sup>th</sup> July- 10<sup>th</sup> August: Community consultations regarding reform of the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005* to allow the Indigenous Land Corporation (ILC) to invest in water and water activities. Dates for all consultation sessions and a discussion paper can be found on [the ILC website](#).
- 6-8<sup>th</sup> August, MLDRIN Directors' Meeting, Adelaide SA
- 25<sup>th</sup> August: due date for submissions to the [inquiry into management, governance and use of environmental water, Victoria](#).
- 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> September: International Rivers Symposium, Brisbane

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](mailto:executiveofficer.mldrin@gmail.com)