



## Meeting Update

### Murray Lower Darling Rivers Indigenous Nations

**Meeting Details:** MLDRIN Board of Directors meeting, AGM and Echuca Declaration Event

**Date:** 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> November 2017

**Venue:** Moama Bowling Club, Moama NSW

#### Attendance

Rene Woods, Ian Woods (Nari Nari), Stephen Atkinson (Wadi Wadi), Grant Rigney (Ngarrindjeri), Stewart Taylor, Bella Kennedy (Wemba Wemba), Kingsley Abdullah, Gary Abdulla (Maraura), Coral Peckham, Ramsay Freeman, James Ingram (Wiradjuri), Alice Williams, Janice Williams (Wolgalu), Gary Hansen (Taungurung), Norman Wilson, Tamika Lindsay (Ngintait), Bradley Bell, Rebecca Ritters (Ngunnawal), Gayle Maddigan (Nyeri Nyeri), William (Badger) Bates (Barkandji), Will Mooney (Executive Officer), Monica Morgan, Lance James (Yorta Yorta), Sharnie Hamilton, Neville Whyman (Barapa Barapa), Rick Kirby (Mutthi Mutthi),

#### Key issues discussed:

- Directors discussed proposed amendments to the MLDRIN Constitution. Directors formed a working group to progress the amendments. A copy of the proposed amendments will be sent to all Delegates and will be discussed at the next MLDRIN Full Gathering.
- Directors and Delegates reviewed updated maps of Water Resource Plan areas in the Southern Basin, and provided input on the appropriate Traditional Owner groups required to be consulted for each area.
- Directors and Delegates discussed the [Sustainable Diversion Limit Adjustment Mechanism](#) and a proposed 605 GL cut to water recovery in the Southern Basin. A large number of submissions were received by MDBA on the SDL Draft Determination – the majority did not support the proposed cut. [MLDRIN's submission can be viewed here](#). MLDRIN will be running workshops on the SDL Adjustment in late 2017- early 2018.
- Directors and Delegates were briefed about [the Living Murray](#) Indigenous Partnerships program. The program will continue (with \$500K funding for two years) following a review this year. The review found that the IPP is delivering significant positive results
- The MLDRIN Board agreed to review MDBA draft publications including the Yarns Downstream booklet, community newsletter and updated information on the MDBA website.

- Andrew Garret and Kara Talbot from NSW Crown Lands and Waters presented on current approaches to Traditional Owner engagement in water resource planning in NSW. Consultants will be employed by NSW Government, who will engage with MLDRIN and NBAN to coordinate face to face meetings and Nation workshops. This is an evolving discussion, more to come soon.
- Delegates discussed the possibility of having portfolios for Directors, to enable broader scope of activities and accountability

### Key resolutions and decisions:

- Directors and Delegates Reviewed and endorsed the Financial Statements for the 2016/2017 Financial Year. There has been a significant increase in revenue to MLDRIN, through funding from the Victorian Government, and other project funding
- Delegates read and approved the Chairperson's report for 2017, as well as the Minutes of the 2016 AGM. [MLDRIN's detailed annual report for the financial year can be found here.](#)
- The MLDRIN Board endorsed an open letter from National Parks Association of NSW regarding a push to de-gazette Murray Valley National Park to allow logging
- The MLDRIN Board endorsed appointment of a new Project and Engagement Officer (look out for an announcement on this very soon)
- The Full Gathering passed a following resolution calling on state and Commonwealth governments to support the Barkandji people in advocating to keep a sustainable water supply to Menindee lakes and that the Baarka river be returned to an environmentally and culturally sustainable state.
- On day two of the Full Gathering, Delegates and invited guests met to discuss the 10 year anniversary of the Echuca Declaration. Attendees discussed achievements since 2007 and also highlighted key objectives for the next ten years. A separate report on the Echuca Declaration event will be prepared. Information provided by delegates will be included in MLDRIN's updated corporate plan (2018-2022)

### Key upcoming dates

- Early December – final report from the NSW [Independent Review of Water Management and Compliance](#) expected to be delivered
- 15 Dec – MDBA to submit proposed SDL Adjustment to Federal Water Minister
- 11-13 December - 3 day workshop for NSW Stakeholder Advisory Panel (SAP) members (including Traditional Owners from Water Resource Plan areas)
- 21 Feb 2018 – Joint Water Resource Planning meeting in Canberra

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