

The Living Murray Indigenous Partnerships Project



The Living Murray (TLM) Indigenous Partnerships Project is a vital component of the Living Murray Initiative.

The aim of the project is to ensure that Indigenous community knowledge, values and perspectives are considered in each of the icon site environmental management plans.

The Indigenous Partnerships Program was developed with and strongly endorsed by the Murray Lower Darling Rivers Indigenous Nations (MLDRIN). A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was developed in 2006 between MLDRIN and the former Murray-Darling Basin Commission (now MDBA), to provide engagement with Traditional Owners at a strategic level along the length of the River Murray and across state boundaries, while being inclusive of formal jurisdictions.

In South Australia the Department for Environment, Water and Natural Resources is responsible for the management of the Chowilla Floodplain and Lower Lakes, Coorong and Murray Mouth Icon Sites which lie within country belonging to First Peoples of the River and Mallee Region and Ngarrindjeri respectively.

The program employs Indigenous facilitators who work with icon site managers to improve the health of the River Murray system by making the best use of water for the environment. The program has been running since 2006.

Indigenous Facilitators:

- Identify opportunities for Indigenous partnerships in planning and management under the Living Murray
- Through a process of informed involvement, ensure that Indigenous people have a meaningful role in planning and management of the Icon Sites
- Ensure that Indigenous knowledge, cultural values, perspectives and aspirations are incorporated into each icon site Environmental Management Plan in a meaningful and comprehensive way which informs management decisions
- Provide technical support and resources to build capacity for Indigenous people to contribute to the future management of the icon sites
- Ensure that Indigenous involvement in planning and management is undertaken in a culturally appropriate manner.

