



## Meeting Update

### Murray Lower Darling Rivers Indigenous Nations

<b>Meeting Details:</b> MLDRIN Board Meeting
<b>Date:</b> 16 <sup>th</sup> and 17 <sup>th</sup> August 2018
<b>Venue:</b> Lady Augusta Motel, Swan Hill

#### 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:** Jackie Leuthi, Phil Alcorn, Ken Scott, Sophie Taylor. **NSW DPI:** Brendon Chatfield, Brad Delaney, Darren Brown. **Victoria DELWP:** Lisa Hocking, Maddy Jenkins, Ray Ahmat. **South Australia DEW:** Mel White, Fiona Giles

#### Key issues discussed:

- Membership of the Basin Community Committee (BCC). [New BCC members have been appointed](#). The new Aboriginal members are Sandra Peckham, Floyd Robinson and Phil Duncan. Directors sought further information from MDBA about the appointment of BCC members and lack of representation from the Southern Basin. MDBA agreed to provide more information.
- Directors reviewed maps showing Water Resource Plan (WRP) area boundaries and key Traditional Owners to be consulted for each region.
- Directors expressed concerns about timelines for WRP consultation and preparation. Directors asked for advice from MDBA staff about contingencies for WRPs that do not meet the June 2019 deadline. What are the implications if a State doesn't get its plans submitted in time?
- Directors and MDBA staff discussed a new project plan for inclusion of First Nations objectives in the [Annual Environmental Watering priorities](#) document.
- Directors received an update from MDBA regarding progress of the [SDL supply measure projects](#). It is still unclear what the governance for development of the projects and management of funding will be. MLDRIN has submitted proposal to establish an overarching Traditional Owner advisory committee. MLDRIN asked for details of funding attached to each project and what budgets are available for consultation.
- MDBA staff introduced new additions to the MDBA Aboriginal Partnerships team: Ken Scott and Phil Alcorn.
- MDBA staff provided an update on the allocation of the \$40M committed by

the Federal Government in May 2018 to support acquisition of water for cultural and economic purposes. Funding for a MLDRIN Cultural Flows project officer will be transferred from Department of Agriculture and Water Resources soon.

- NSW DPI staff provided an update on Water Resource Plan consultation. NSW has employed Aboriginal consultants for Aboriginal engagement. They will be contacting MLDRIN Delegates soon. Directors reviewed a draft contract to cover the cost of MLDRIN Delegates supporting Aboriginal consultation in NSW. The draft was sent back to NSW with a number of questions.
- South Australian staff highlighted that the [Murray Water Allocation Plan](#) is up for public exhibition. [Public consultation is open regarding a New Landscape Act](#). Submissions due 15<sup>th</sup> October.
- Victorian Government representatives outlined approach to engagement with Victorian Nations on WRPs.
- Directors reviewed financial updates for the period
- Directors engaged with lawyers from K&L Gates regarding amendments to the MLDRIN constitution.

#### Key resolutions and decisions:

- The Board of MLDRIN resolved to establish a finance sub-committee, with standing membership of the Treasurer and Executive Officer
- The Board established rules for delegations and authorisation to sign contracts. The EO was tasked with preparing a formal delegations policy.
- The Board accepted Stephen Atkinson's resignation as Vice Chair, Director and Wadi Wadi Delegate.
- The Board endorsed Grant Rigney's nomination to the position of interim Vice Chair
- The Board endorsed applications from Tameka Lindsay, Peter Ingram and Mary Pappin and referred the applications to the Full Gathering to be held in November.
- Directors agreed to convene a meeting in Mildura in October to finalise proposed changes to the MLDRIN Constitution, before submitting to the MLDRIN AGM in November 2018.

#### Key upcoming dates

##### MLDRIN Board Meetings

8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> October 2018, Mildura

##### MLDRIN Full Gatherings:

15-17<sup>th</sup> November, Wagga Wagga NSW

11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:executiveofficer.mldrin@gmail.com)