



## Meeting Update

### Murray Lower Darling Rivers Indigenous Nations

<b>Meeting Details:</b> MLDRIN Board Meeting
<b>Date:</b> 8 <sup>th</sup> and 9 <sup>th</sup> October 2018
<b>Venue:</b> Mildura Centre, Mildura VIC

#### Attendance

**Directors:** Kingsley Abdullah, Grant Rigney (Acting Chair), Stewart Taylor (Treasurer), Coral Peckham, Alice Williams, Will Mooney (Executive Officer)  
**MDBA Staff:** Jackie Leuthi, Ken Scott,

#### Key issues discussed:

- Review of MLDRIN Constitution. The first day of the meeting was dedicated to reviewing proposed amendments to the MLDRIN Constitution. Directors discussed changes and approved draft wording for amendments.
- Directors discussed a process for seeking MLDRIN Delegates and Nations feedback on the proposed changes
- Directors heard from Murray Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) staff about current discussions between MDBA, the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources, the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder and Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet regarding Indigenous engagement in Basin Water Issues. Similar discussions are being held between MDBA and State Governments.  
Directors expressed concern that Traditional Owners/MLDRIN/NBAN were not informed of or invited to participate in the discussion. MDBA committed to ensuring MLDRIN and NBAN would be invited to participate. Directors requested MDBA Staff to communicate the Board's concerns regarding lack of involvement of Traditional Owners back to the MDBA leadership
- Directors heard updates on Water Resource Plan development. Consultation with some Nations in NSW is underway, but NSW still well behind intended timelines. Timeline for the Wimmera-Mallee Plan in Victoria has been extended to allow for additional consultation. The South Australian Murray Region plan has been amended following feedback from MLDRIN and SA Nations
- Directors received an update about the Aboriginal Weather Watchers program. A full update on the first round of research will be provided to the MLDRIN AGM in November. Directors and MDBA staff discussed opportunity to use the information coming out of the project to highlight the impacts of drought on Aboriginal communities in the Basin.
- MDBA Staff provided information on the new MDBA Aboriginal Partnerships

Team membership and provided an updated organisational chart.

- Directors discussed options and opportunities regarding management and governance of the \$40 million committed to purchase water for Aboriginal cultural and economic outcomes, as part of the Commonwealth Government 'deal sheet' in May 2018. MLDRIN has prepared a scoping paper which has been sent to all Delegates.

### Key resolutions and decisions:

- All proposed changes to the MLDRIN Constitution will be provided to the Delegates prior to the 2018 AGM. Changes will be discussed and Delegates will be asked to consider the changes and inform other individuals within their Nation group. Delegates and Nations will have up until 1 month before the next Full Gathering to submit ideas or changes. The amendments, incorporating Delegates input, will be voted on at the next Full Gathering in 2019, following the 2018 AGM.
- Directors reviewed and approved the Minutes of the August Board Meeting and the Finance Reports as submitted by the Executive Officer
- The Board reviewed and endorsed the Annual Budget for the financial year to 30 June 2019
- The Board adopted Terms of Reference for the new finance subcommittee.
- The Board reviewed and adopted a Delegations Policy, procedure and Schedule
- To ensure appropriate management of the organisation, the MLDRIN Board determined that only members who have served at least a 12-month consecutive term as Delegates, and who have attended at least the last two consecutive Full Gatherings, will be eligible to nominate or be elected to the position of Director of MLDRIN. This decision will be further developed in a Responsibilities, Eligibility and Election of Directors Policy, to be formulated by the Board.
- Directors Reviewed a Funding Agreement for employment of a Cultural Flows Project Officer and associated project activities. Directors approved the treasurer and Executive Officer to sign the agreement with Murray Darling Basin Authority. The Funding Agreement provides \$1,250,000 over three years to implement the findings of the National Cultural Flows Research Project

### Key upcoming dates

- 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> November: 2018 MLDRIN AGM, Mercure Hotel Wagga Wagga
- 22 Oct- 6<sup>th</sup> November: Public Meetings for [Murray–Darling Basin efficiency measures criteria](#) in locations across the Basin
- 9<sup>th</sup> November, closing date for submissions on Murray–Darling Basin efficiency measures criteria . Please see <https://haveyoursay.agriculture.gov.au/> for details

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)