



POSITION DESCRIPTION

Position Title	NSW Policy and Project Officer
Developed and approved:	6 th August 2020
Dates Reviewed	
Reports To	Executive Officer
Internal Contacts	Project Co-Ordinator Administration Officer Cultural Flows Project Officer MLDRIN Board of Directors MLDRIN Member Delegates
External Contacts	NSW Traditional Owners Peak Aboriginal organisations (including Native Title Services Corporation, NSW Aboriginal Land Council, Northern Basin Aboriginal Nations) NSW Dept of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE Water)
MLDRIN	<p>MLDRIN represents Sovereign First Nations along the Southern part of the Murray Darling Basin. It includes 25 First Nations, who have a unique connection to the rivers and waterways of the region. MLDRIN is focused on caring for the rivers and the recognition of Aboriginal water rights.</p> <p>MLDRIN is committed to supporting First Nations' involvement in developing new water strategies and policies in NSW, and to empowering First Nations to participate in these strategies and policies.</p>
Purpose of Role	This role will empower MLDRIN members (hereafter referred to as First Nations) to participate in the development of new water strategies and policies, through developing engagement and consultation

	<p>programs that will enable First Nation aspirations and voices to be documented and fully heard.</p> <p>This role will have the opportunity to make an impact in a region where water and rivers are the lifeblood of communities and culture. NSW First Nations have suffered severe impacts from drought and over allocation of water resources. This role will make a vital contribution to addressing these issues.</p>
Principal duties	<p>This role will perform the duties listed below to achieve MLDRIN’s objectives in regard to the development and implementation of a Regional Water Strategy, a Partnership (Accord) Agreement with the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE WATER), and a NSW Aboriginal Water Policy with the NSW Government.</p> <p>This role will support the development of the above policies and plans as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Developing communication plans to create awareness about opportunities for input into policies and plans, including communicating about critical water issues and why participating in them is important for First Nations;2. Developing and implementing engagement plans to involve First Nations in new policy and plan developments, support input into policy and document concerns and aspirations;3. Collaborate with MLDRIN staff to identify opportunities for conducting research and waterway assessment projects that will strengthen First Nations’ influence in NSW water planning;4. Conduct other research as required and/or identified, including research to remain informed on the inclusion of First Nations’ values, uses and objectives in water and natural resource management in NSW;5. Provide support and advice to First Nations to document their water-dependent cultural values and define objectives for environmental water delivery;

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Review any documentation, draft policies and plans received and highlight opportunities or concerns and provide advice on options; 7. Update Board on key developments; 8. Work with Board to recommend and draft submissions; 9. Liaise with external stakeholders and attend meetings as required; 10. Be an advocate for First Nations' concerns and aspirations in the development and review of the plans and policies; 11. Work collaboratively with other MLDRIN staff.
<p>Other duties specific to a particular plan or policy</p>	<p>Regional Water Strategies:</p> <p>In addition to the above duties:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) This role will act as a contact point for all communications and any requests for feedback regarding development of RWSs. For any communications sent to MLDRIN, DPIE Water should clearly indicate: if feedback is sought, the specific nature of the feedback sought and preferred timeframes for receipt of the feedback; 2) The role will forward relevant information and requests to Board representatives and relevant Nation Delegates; 3) This role and Board representatives will engage with DPIE Water representatives to determine an agreed timeframe for provision of feedback; 4) This role will collate comments, feedback and concerns of Board and Nation representatives and will provide written responses to DPIE Water in a timely manner, as agreed between the parties. <p>Partnership Agreement:</p> <p>In addition to the above duties:</p>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) continue to contribute to dialogue between Peak organisations and DPIE Water in order to finalise the Partnership Agreement document in preparation for execution by all parties. Dialogue to occur through scheduled AWAG meetings and regular meetings of the Peak organisations as appropriate; 2) Assist the Board to identify and negotiate actions, priorities, targets and timeframes to implement the agreed focus areas; 3) Contribute to the development of a schedule to be appended to agreement detailing these actions, priorities, targets and timeframes; 4) Conduct work as required that has been identified through the actions, priorities, and targets; <p>NSW Aboriginal Water Policy:</p> <p>In addition to the above duties:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) MLDRIN Board representatives and the PPO will contribute to the development of a NSW First Nations Water Policy Position Paper, detailing foundational principles and critical components of policy reform; 2) The desktop scoping of existing information detailing NSW Nations’ key aspirations opportunities and concerns; 3) Direct engagement with Delegates from NSW Member Nations to collate feedback on key aspirations, opportunities, concerns and preferences for ongoing participation in policy development; 4) Along with Board representatives, participate in ongoing workshops, working groups or other policy development forums as agreed under the terms of the Partnership Agreement to finalise a State Aboriginal Water Policy.
Other Duties	Support MLDRIN staff in other duties as needed, including preparing submissions briefing papers and reports.

Safety	This role will be required to comply with all health and safety requirements, and exercise due care in regard to their own and other's safety and wellbeing.
Policy	This role will be required to comply with all policies and procedures provided to them on commencement and as updated from time to time.