



POSITION DESCRIPTION

Position Title	Aboriginal Waterway Assessment (AWA) Project Officer
Developed and approved:	26 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	MLDRIN Victorian member Nations Victorian Aboriginal Water Officers' Network Aboriginal Water Unit, Department of Environmental, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP)
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 focussed on caring for the rivers and the recognition of Aboriginal water rights.</p> <p>MLDRIN is committed to supporting the First Nations' active involvement in the Murray Darling Basin, to advance cultural, environmental, social and economic outcomes for water on Country.</p>
Purpose of Role	<p>This role will work with First Nations and lead MLDRIN's implementation of the Aboriginal Waterway Assessment (AWA) tool (see below) in the State of Victoria.</p> <p>In this role you will work closely with First Nations to plan, facilitate and apply the AWA tool to waterways across Country. You will support First Nations to build their understanding of the AWA tool and their ability to produce quality results and community reports. You will</p>

	<p>pursue options for training and capacity building to further support First Nations’ application of the AWA tool.</p> <p>This role will be responsible for the delivery of MLDRIN’s upcoming round of AWA projects, and the integration of the AWA tool into other projects</p> <p>As the AWA Project Officer you will have the opportunity to make an impact in a region where water and rivers are the lifeblood of communities and culture. MLDRIN First Nations have suffered severe impacts from drought and over allocation of water resources. This role will thus make a vital contribution to addressing these issues, and will thus help sustain culture, support health and well-being and build livelihoods for First Nations people.</p>
<p>Aboriginal Waterway Assessment (AWA) Tool</p>	<p>The AWA tool is a First Nations-owned research tool designed to assess the cultural and environmental health of waterways on Country. The AWA tool was first developed in 2015 in partnership between MLDRIN, Northern Basin Aboriginal Nations (NBAN) and Maori researchers from Aotearoa New Zealand, with support and funding from the Murray-Darling Basin Authority (MDBA).</p> <p>The AWA tool builds on the Maori Cultural Health Index (CHI), enabling First Nations to document their cultural values, uses and objectives for waterways on Country.</p> <p>The AWA tool is a proven method for identifying and advocating for the inclusion of First Nations values and objectives in waterway management. AWA projects can also lay a foundation for Cultural Flows Management Plans and other projects for water on Country.</p> <p>Since 2016 MLDRIN has coordinated a Victorian State Government funded AWA Program with seven First Nations, spanning more than 72 assessments site and over forty rivers, waterways and wetlands. In 2019, MLDRIN’s AWA program was awarded the inaugural River Basin Management Society award for “Aboriginal and Torres</p>

	Strait Islander Knowledge and Practice in Waterway Management’.
Principal duties	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lead the delivery of MLDRIN’s Aboriginal Waterway Assessment (AWA) Program; 2. Ensure MLDRIN’s deliverables and milestones in regard to the delivery of the AWA program are completed on time and to a high standard; 3. Maintain regular contact with First Nations Delegates and project contacts to ensure AWA projects are completed on time and to a high standard; 4. Collaborate with First Nations in Victoria to identify opportunities to apply the AWA tool to waterways on Country; 5. Collaborate with First Nations to plan and implement on-ground AWA projects in order to identify and document First Nations values, uses and objectives for key watering sites; 6. Provide detailed assistance to First Nations throughout the AWA project lifecycle, including project planning, on Country facilitation, data analysis and report writing; 7. Deliver AWA training and support to First Nations to build capacity and expertise in the application of the AWA tool across the AWA project lifecycle; 8. Collaborate with First Nations to expand on the inaugural AWA community of practice held in 2019; 9. Build networks within government, NGOs, research institutions and the water sector to continue support for the application of the AWA tool;

	<p>10. Explore synergies with existing Aboriginal water projects, waterway assessment tools and research, including the Cultural Flows Methodology;</p> <p>11. Undertake general research to remain informed on the inclusion of First Nations' values, uses and objectives in water and natural resource management.</p>
Other Duties	Support MLDRIN staff in other duties as needed, including preparing submissions briefing papers and reports.
Other requirements	<p>This role is required to undertake regular travel in order to perform the duties. Access to a work vehicle will be provided;</p> <p>The role involves both indoor and outdoor work.</p>
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.