



Meeting Update

Murray Lower Darling Rivers Indigenous Nations

Meeting Details: MLDRIN Board Meeting
Date: 31 st October, 1 st November 2019
Venue: Best Western Travel Inn, Carlton VIC

Attendance

MLDRIN: Rene Woods (Nari Nari) (Day 2 only), Stewart Taylor (Wamba Wamba), Kingsley Abdulla (Maraura), Grant Rigney (Ngarrindjeri), Brendan Kennedy (Tati Tati), Melissa Jones (Latji Latji), Will Mooney (Executive Officer),
Apologies: Peter Ingram (Wiradjuri), Jida Gulpilil (Dhudhuroa), Alice Williams (Wolgalu)
Agency Staff: Tony McLeod, Ken Scott (MDBA), Bryony Gryce, Paulo Lay, Karen Lau (DELWP), Deb Peterson (Independent Panel for Assessment of Socio-economic Conditions in the Basin), Lawson Cole (Aither)

Key issues discussed:

- First Nations input to the design of the National Carp Control Plan was discussed. Directors noted that there has been no communication from the Fisheries, Research and Development Corporation (FRDC) regarding how the outcomes of a First Nations Carp control workshop held in Dubbo in July have informed the development of the Carp Control Plan. The Executive Officer was tasked to seek clarification from FRDC.
- Directors held a dedicated session to review a final draft of the amended Constitution of MLDRIN. The Constitution has been reviewed and amended over three years, with a draft tabled at the 2018 AGM (Wagga Wagga). Directors provided input to refine approaches to membership application and new Nations applications. Directors discussed the procedure for finalisation of the Constitutional Amendments. Notice will be sent to all members advising that a special resolution to amend the Constitution will be tabled at the upcoming 2019 AGM.
- Directors reviewed a draft of the MLDRIN Strategic Plan (2020-2025). The Draft Strategic Plan has been prepared by the Executive Officer informed by Board workshops and feedback from Delegates at the Canberra Full Gathering (April 2019). Directors reviewed the draft vision, purpose, goals and strategies.
- Tony McLeod (MDBA) provided input and insights into strategic threats and opportunities from MDBA perspective.

- Directors discussed progress regarding Aboriginal water policy in each Basin State. In SA, all WRPs are in place. Directors noted concern about lack of communication from Victorian Aboriginal Water Unit. It is left to individuals to follow up to understand what its happening regarding progress of Aboriginal water policy
- Rene Woods provided an update on discussions in NSW regarding development of Regional Water Strategies and an Aboriginal Water Policy. NSW DPIE has convened a peak bodies group to discuss engagement. MLDRIN has argued that any further discussions to develop engagement guidelines and Aboriginal water policy should involve representation from Aboriginal communities, not just peak bodies. [Regional water Strategies](#) offer an opportunity to influence policy, planning and infrastructure, but timelines for input are limited.
- Directors discussed the role of the new Murray Darling Basin [Inspector General \(Mick Kelty\)](#) and how his office can consolidate progress around Aboriginal water rights and improve consistency
- Victorian Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) provided an outline of progress and next steps regarding Aboriginal water policy and the Aboriginal Water Unit (AWU). DELWP staff advised of current vacancies in the AWU. DELWP staff and directors discussed key issues including: timelines and process for completion of a Funding Bid for [Environmental Contribution Levy Tranche 5 \(EC5\)](#), secure funding and expansion of the Aboriginal Water Officer's Network, a planned evaluation of the Aboriginal Water Program and development of the next phase of policy improvement in Victoria
- MDBA Staff provided an outline of their Climate Change Research Program. MDBA would like to work with MLDRIN to understand 'cultural' vulnerabilities relating to climate change. How will climate change impact cultural values, uses, connection and identities? The MDBA research is currently in a 'scan' phase.
- Directors participated in a roundtable discussion with members of the [Independent Panel conducting the Assessment of Socio economic conditions in the Basin](#). Directors provided advice to the panel members on appropriate engagement with First Nations and responded to specific questions regarding outcomes for First Nations on the ground. An interim report on the assessment will be provided to Water Minister David Littleproud by December.

Key resolutions and decisions:

- Directors reviewed and approved minutes of previous Board Meetings, finance reports and correspondence register for the period since the September 2019 Board Meeting.
- Directors finalised a review of the amended Draft MLDRIN Constitution, including procedures for membership and new Nation applications. Directors clarified the process for review and adoption of the Draft by the MLDRIN Full Delegation at the upcoming 2019 AGM
- Directors identified the need to strengthen MLDRIN involvement and advocacy around climate change impacts. Directors agreed to appoint key contacts to engage with MDBA and other agencies on this issue.
- Directors reviewed a draft Cultural Safety Policy and undertook to provide detailed feedback before the policy is tabled at the 2019 AGM for review and endorsement by the Membership.
- Directors agreed to invite the new Basin Inspector General, Mick Keelty to the upcoming 2019 AGM
- Directors reviewed the Draft MLDRIN Strategic Plan 2020-2025 and provided advice and feedback to inform a revised draft. The Strategic Plan will be tabled at the 2019 MLDRIN AGM for review.

Key upcoming dates

- 26th and 27th November: MLDRIN North East Victoria Water Markets and Trading training workshop, Shepparton
- 29th and 30th November: MLDRIN Full Gathering and AGM, Mildura
- 29th and 30th November: [ACCC Murray Darling Basin Water Markets enquiry](#) submissions due
- 23rd December – 6th January: MLDRIN Office closed

If you have any questions about anything raised in this update please feel free to contact Will Mooney on **0404 163 700** or Kaleana Reyland on **0407031180** or email: **executiveofficer.mldrin@gmail.com**