

## Communiqué – Meeting 9

### The Living Murray Community Reference Group (CRG)

This communiqué provides an overview of the CRG's meeting held on 10–11 September 2007 in Canberra.

The meeting provided the opportunity for CRG members to meet and discuss issues with Murray-Darling Basin Commission staff.

Items discussed at the meeting included:

- **The State of the Darling Interim Hydrology Report**

Darren Barma from Webb McKeown & Associates provided a presentation of the key findings.

- **The Pilot Environmental Water Purchase project, and other progress to obtain 500 GL for The Living Murray**

The CRG was very pleased with the interest shown in the pilot project and there was general support for further market-based water recovery projects to be pursued.

- **Communicating environmental watering that will take place in 2007–08**

The CRG was very aware of the serious state of the Murray-Darling system and the pressures on local communities. Any environmental watering to protect critical drought refuges in the River Murray icon sites will need to be supported by appropriate communication. The CRG expressed unanimous support for the Environmental Watering Group to use the very limited environmental water allocation to protect critical drought refuges in the River Murray icon sites.

- **The National Plan for Water Security and its relevance to The Living Murray**

A briefing was provided to update members on what is happening as a result of the new water legislation. At this stage, the Murray-Darling Basin Commission is operating in a 'business as usual' way.

- **Planning undertaken to integrate construction, environmental watering and water recovery activity at the icon sites**

The CRG was briefed on the progress being made with the plans for the icon sites and the need for considerable consultation and input from the CRG next year.

- **Management arrangements for the River Murray Channel icon site**

The CRG provides community input in to the River Murray Channel Icon Site Management Plan. An update was provided on timelines and arrangements for updating this plan.

- **Co-operation with the Native Fish Strategy Community Stakeholder Taskforce**

Adrian Wells, Chair of the Native Fish Strategy Community Stakeholder Taskforce discussed opportunities for improved links between the Taskforce and the CRG. Adrian also provided an update on the community engagement project that the Murray Darling Association is undertaking on behalf of the Murray-Darling Basin Commission.

- **Status of native fish at the Coorong**

CRG member, Dr Kerri Muller, informed the Group that reduced inflows have resulted in the disappearance of some fish species in the Coorong and Lower Lakes.

The Group's next meeting will be held in Canberra in February 2008.

The Living Murray program is a commitment by the Australian, New South Wales, Victorian, South Australian and ACT governments to improve the health of the River Murray through significant investments in regional communities.

The Living Murray Community Reference Group (CRG) was established to provide advice to the Murray-Darling Basin Community Advisory Committee on all aspects of The Living Murray's implementation. It includes representatives from the Indigenous community, irrigation sector, environmental groups, industry, local government and the business community. The Community Advisory Committee considers the CRG's advice and communicates it to The Living Murray Committee, the Commission and the Murray-Darling Basin Ministerial Council.

## CRG Members

Lee O'Brien (Chair)  
Laurie Arthur  
Gordon Ball  
Kelvin Baxter  
Robert Black  
Merril Boyd  
Arlene Buchan  
Tricia Caswell  
John Grabbe  
Henry Jones  
Howard Jones  
Judi Lawler  
Phyllis Miller  
Sarah Moles  
Kevin McKinnon

Henty, NSW  
Moulamein, NSW  
Deniliquin, NSW  
Berrigan, NSW  
Coleambally, NSW  
Berrigan, NSW  
Melbourne, Vic  
Melbourne, Vic  
Dirranbandi, Qld  
Clayton, SA  
Dareton, NSW  
Moama, NSW  
Forbes, NSW  
Allora, Qld  
Tocumwal, NSW

Anne McCamish  
Doug McWilliam  
Kerri Muller  
Sarah Nicholas  
Paul Martin  
Barrie MacMillan  
Jack Papageorgiou  
Jeff Parish  
Russell Pell  
Matt Rigney  
Wayne Webster  
Paul Sinclair  
Col Thomson  
Dick Thompson  
David Wotton

Shepparton, Vic  
Griffith, NSW  
Strathalbyn, SA  
Wandiligong, Vic  
Renmark, SA  
Mildura, Vic  
Cooltong, SA  
Barmera, SA  
Kyabram, Vic  
Meningie, SA  
Kerang, Vic  
Melbourne, Vic  
Curlwa, NSW  
Griffith, NSW  
Stirling, SA

For further information about The Living Murray, visit [www.mdbc.gov.au](http://www.mdbc.gov.au)

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