



The Living Murray



Communiqué – Meeting 12

The Living Murray Community Reference Group (CRG)

On Thursday, 18th September and Friday, 19th September, The Living Murray CRG held a joint meeting with the Murray Lower Darling Rivers Indigenous Nations (MLDRIN). The meeting included a forum session in which members of each committee could discuss real-time on-ground community issues.

The Living Murray Update

The Director of The Living Murray presented an update on the program as a whole. This included a report on environmental watering activities over 2007/2008, which delivered a small percentage of water to key icon sites. After recent rains, the Lower Lakes have received enough water to ensure that they are at low risk of acidification before the next winter inflow period. Environmental monitoring results for 2007/2008 are currently being collated. Final monitoring plans for each icon site will be available in the next few months.

Community Discussion

The Living Murray program has a strong focus on communication and consultation. Both Indigenous and broader community perspectives and inputs into the program have been crucial to The Living Murray's achievements. This discussion was an opportunity for both the CRG and MLDRIN to exchange information regarding The Living Murray issues. The discussion highlighted the need for:

- a mixture of community engagement methods for Indigenous and non-Indigenous groups
- more interaction between on-ground stakeholders, government authorities and Traditional Owners
- up-to-date information to be communicated to the broader community.

Coorong and Lower Lakes Community Consultation

In response to a request from the Murray-Darling Basin Ministerial Council, the Community Advisory Committee coordinated two community consultation forums to provide information on the state of the Coorong and Lower Lakes and to hear community views on long-term management approaches and future consultation. Held at Murray Bridge (SA) on 25 July 2008 and Moama (NSW) on 31 July 2008, the forums were successful in bringing together people concerned about the management of this important part of the river system. Some CRG members attended these meetings in their local community roles.

Water Recovery

A report will soon be available on the Pilot Environmental Water Purchase. The CRG's advice to communicate water purchase measures more effectively to the community has been taken into account, with the information in the report being made available to the community. Community feedback from the pilot will also be addressed in any future water purchases.

Environmental Works and Measures

Modelling of the on-ground operation of proposed infrastructure (stage 1) has been completed. The report detailing the outcomes has been endorsed by the Environmental Watering Group. An independent cost and scheduling review has also been undertaken, assessing the budget and timeframe of the project. The CRG recommended the involvement of the community from the earliest stages of implementation.

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 Murray River 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) Henty, NSW
Laurie Arthur Moulamein, NSW
Gordon Ball Deniliquin, NSW
Kelvin Baxter Berrigan, NSW
Robert Black Coleambally, NSW
Merrill Boyd Berrigan, NSW
Arlene Buchan Melbourne, Vic
Tricia Caswell Melbourne, Vic
John Grabbe Dirranbandi, Qld
Henry Jones Clayton, SA
Howard Jones Dareton, NSW
Judi Lawler Moama, NSW
Phyllis Miller Forbes, NSW
Sarah Moles Goomburra, Qld
Kevin McKinnon Tocumwal, NSW

Anne McCamish Shepparton, Vic
Doug McWilliam Griffith, NSW
Kerri Muller Strathalbyn, SA
Sarah Nicholas Wandiligong, Vic
Paul Martin Renmark, SA
Barrie MacMillan Mildura, Vic
Jack Papageorgiou Cooltong, SA
Jeff Parish Barmera, SA
Russell Pell Kyabram, Vic
Matt Rigney Meningie, SA
Paul Sinclair Melbourne, Vic
Nola Taylor Buronga, NSW
Col Thomson Curlwa, NSW
Dick Thompson Griffith, NSW
David Wotton Stirling, SA



Murray-Darling Basin Commission

GPO Box 409 Canberra ACT 2601
Tel 02 6279 0100 Fax 02 6248 8053
www.mdbc.gov.au