

MLDRIN Autumn Newsletter 2017

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News and updates from MLDRIN

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Welcome to MLDRIN News! - Autumn 2017

We've created a new email newsletter format, so that keeping up to date will be easier. MLDRIN News will continue to be distributed quarterly. Please forward this email to your colleagues and community if you think they'll be interested. We look forward to sharing our news and building awareness of Aboriginal water rights issues in the Murray Darling Basin!



Some of the Delegates and guests who attended our recent Full Gathering in Dubbo

Dubbo Full Gathering

MLDRIN Delegates from Victoria, South Australia and NSW gathered in Dubbo this March. Delegates were joined by representatives from the Murray Darling Basin Authority as well as the Victorian and NSW governments. The Full Delegation was also excited to endorse four new delegates: Bradley Bell for the Ngunnawal Nation, Sharnie Hamilton for Barapa Barapa and Auntie Betty Pearce and Uncle Badger Bates for Barjkandji. Delegates also elected a new Director, Kingsley Abdulla from the Maraura Nation.

Some of the key issues discussed in Dubbo:

- A new projects partnership with the MDBA
- Water Resource Planning in NSW and VIC
- Review of the MLDRIN Corporate Plan
- Report backs from all Nations
- An update from the National Cultural Flows Research Project

For a summary of outcomes from the Dubbo Meeting, [download our Meeting Summary here](#)



Ministerial Council Meeting

On the 17th March, MLDRIN Chair Rene Woods and Director Kingsley Abdulla presented to the Murray-Darling Basin Ministerial Council (MinCo) in Mildura. MinCo is made up of the Water Ministers from all Basin States. Rene and Kingsley highlighted the importance of implementing the findings of the National Cultural Flows Research Project. They also spoke about risks to cultural values posed by cutting water recovery targets in the Basin. MLDRIN also released a media statement on the day, joined by Northern Basin Aboriginal Nations (NBAN) Delegates and reps from environment and flood-plain graziers groups. You can [read the media release here](#).



Groundwater Workshops

Back in January, MLDRIN hosted two workshops with Traditional Owners in Victoria and NSW to discuss a proposed increase in extraction limits for two key groundwater areas. Representatives from seven different Nations attended the workshops to learn about the proposed changes and make their views heard. Issues raised at the workshops were included in submissions to the Murray Darling Basin Authority. Commonwealth Water Minister Barnaby Joyce will make the final decision on the proposed changes between May and June 2017. There was some great media coverage of the workshops on [ABC Country Hour](#). MLDRIN will continue to provide updates on this important issue.

An Aboriginal Commissioner for the VEWH

The Victorian Environmental Water Holder (VEWH) is seeking to appoint its first Aboriginal Commissioner. The VEWH is responsible for managing Victoria's environmental water entitlements. The Commissioners play a vital role in making decisions on the most effective use of the Water Holdings, including approaches to realising 'shared benefits' for cultural values.

Applicants must be a Victorian resident with Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander heritage and have knowledge of or experience in one or more of the following: environmental management, sustainable water management, economics and public administration. Understanding Aboriginal traditional ecological knowledge and values associated with environmental water will also be highly regarded. [Follow this link to the application page](#). All are encouraged to apply.





Out and about in the Basin and Beyond

MLDRIN Reps have been attending meetings, workshops and events. Here's a summary of some key activities in the last couple of months:

- Water Futures Conference (23-25th Feb Melbourne) Tatti Tatti Delegate Brendan Kennedy (above) and Executive Officer Will Mooney attended
- Aboriginal Weather Watchers Program (20th Feb Canberra) Chair Rene Woods attended a meeting of the advisory committee
- Joint Basin States/MDBA/MLDRIN & NBAN Water Resource Planning Workshop (22nd Feb Canberra) Delegates attended to discuss progress of water resource planning
- Millewa Forest Environmental Watering workshop (16-17th March) Deputy Chair Stephen Atkinson attended along with staff from NSW Parks and Wildlife and local Traditional Owners
- River Basin Management Society seminar on Aboriginal Water (1st March Melbourne) Executive Officer Will Mooney presented

Upcoming Dates

- 31st March: Submissions on [Status & Issues papers](#) (NSW) due.
- 10th April: Applications for VEWH Aboriginal Commissioner Due
- 18th April: Submissions on [National Water Reform Public Enquiry](#) due
- 27-28th April: MLDRIN Board Meeting Wodonga
- 16-17th June: MLDRIN Full Gathering (Location to be determined).

Get it touch! If you have content to submit for future MLDRIN News editions please send your ideas to executiveofficer.mldrin@gmail.com



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