



Indigenous Partnerships Program



First Nations people have an ongoing cultural, social, environmental, spiritual, and economic connection to their lands and waters since the time of creation. The Indigenous Partnerships Program provides First Nations whose traditional lands and waters are within an icon site, support to have a meaningful role in the planning and management of the icon site.

The Murray is part of First Nations living cultural heritage

The Indigenous Partnerships Program aims to support First Nations' contribution to the planning and management of environmental watering activities at sites of cultural, ecological and community significance along the River Murray.

The program employs an Indigenous facilitator at most of the icon sites. This facilitator ensures a strong connection between the Traditional Owners and the management of the icon site through active engagement, consultation and knowledge sharing. The program also connects people and Country through activities such as cultural heritage work, Aboriginal waterways assessments, monitoring species of cultural significance, community tours, and support for youth education and inter-generational learning on-Country.

Rivers, the veins of our Country

First Nations have been listening to Country for many thousands of years and can speak for Country so that others can know what Country needs. First Nations values encompass an inherent and living connection to land, water and caring for Country.

Rivers, the veins of our Country is a collection of short stories telling of the deep connection First Nations peoples and Aboriginal communities have to water.

The case studies highlight the work underway to achieve shared cultural and environmental benefits through the delivery of water for the environment.

Importantly, many of the articles are written by Traditional Owners to share their experiences of working in environmental water management to care for Country, both good and bad. This helps us all learn about what works and what doesn't, and how to improve together.

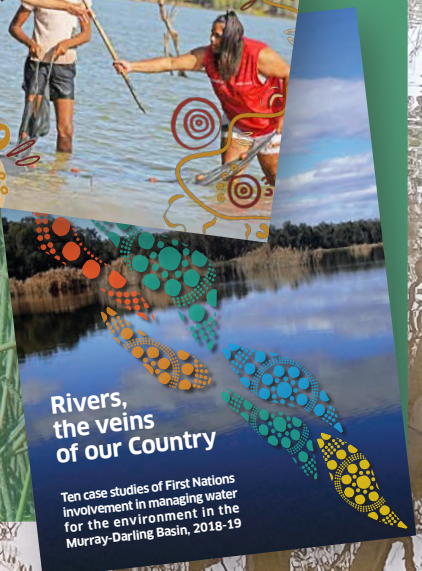


Murray Creation Stories

Many First Nations from the Australian Alps to the Southern Ocean share the story of the River Murray being created as the mighty Murray Cod crashed through the landscape.

First Nations along the River Murray have a deep spiritual connection to the river including its floodplains and wetlands.

Collaboration and partnerships with First Nations can facilitate their rich history, knowledge and lore to contribute to improved water management.



"Our Lands, Our Waters, Our People, All Living Things are connected. We implore people to respect our Ruwe (Country) as it was created in the Kaldowinyeri (the Creation). We long for sparkling, clean waters, healthy land and people and all living things. We long for the Yarlwar-Ruwe (Sea Country) of our ancestors. Our vision is all people Caring, Sharing, Knowing and Respecting the lands, the waters and all living things."

From the Ngarrindjeri Yarlwar-Ruwe / Sea Country Plan (2007)



20 years of The Living Murray
Much achieved, much to do

