



*THE BASIN PLAN IMPLEMENTATION*

# NSW Great Artesian Basin Shallow Consultation Report

## **Schedule C**

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## Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners

**The New South Wales Government proudly acknowledges the Aboriginal community of NSW and their rich and diverse culture and pay respect to their Elders past, present and future.**

The NSW Government acknowledges Aboriginal people as Australia's First Peoples and the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the lands and waters, practising the oldest living culture on earth.

We acknowledge that the people of the Barkandji and Maljangapa, Bigambul, Budjiti, Euahlayi, Gomeroi/Kamilaroi/Gamilaroi/Gamilaraay, Guwamu (Kooma), Kambuwal, Kunja, Kwiambal, Murrawarri, Ngarabal, Ngemba, Wailwan, and Wiradjuri Nations hold significant connection to the lands which rest upon the NSW Great Artesian Basin Shallow.

The NSW Great Artesian Basin Shallow is of spiritual, cultural and economic importance to the First Nation people, and the NSW Government recognises the connection of the people of these nations to water.

We recognise the intrinsic connection of Traditional Owners to country and acknowledge their contribution to the management of the NSW Great Artesian Basin Shallow landscape and natural resources.

The Department of Planning and Environment understands the need for consultation and inclusion of Traditional Owner knowledge, values and uses in water quality planning to ensure we are working towards equality in objectives and outcomes.

The NSW Department of Planning and Environment is committed to continue future relationships and building strong partnerships with our First Nations Peoples.

We thank the Elders, representatives of Barkandji and Maljangapa, Bigambul, Budjiti, Euahlayi, Gomeroi/Kamilaroi/Gamilaroi/Gamilaraay, Guwamu (Kooma), Kambuwal, Kunja, Kwiambal, Murrawarri, Ngarabal, Ngemba, Wailwan, and Wiradjuri Nations and Aboriginal community who provided their knowledge throughout the planning process.

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# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 The role of this consultation report

Consultation with stakeholders and the community is at the forefront of the development of New South Wales (NSW) Water Resource Plans (WRPs). Consultation has been undertaken for each of the 20 surface water and groundwater WRPs being developed by the NSW Government. The purpose of this report is to describe the consultation that was undertaken as part of the development of the WRPs. Specifically, this report will detail the public consultation, both broad and targeted that took place within the NSW Great Artesian Basin Shallow WRP area in order to further the development of the NSW Great Artesian Basin Shallow WRP and inform changes to the NSW Great Artesian Basin Shallow water sharing plan (WSP).

## 1.2 The Basin Plan 2012 (*Water Act 2007* - Commonwealth)

The Basin Plan provides a coordinated approach to managing Basin water resources across Queensland, NSW, ACT, Victoria and South Australia. In NSW the plan came into effect following the signing of Inter-governmental and National Partnership Agreements in 2014. As lead agency, the Department of Planning and Environment—Water Group is working with agencies including the Department of Planning and Environment – Environment and Heritage Group to implement the plan. It requires NSW to develop WRPs for each area within the Murray–Darling Basin. The development of each WRP is guided by the requirements set out in Chapter 10 of the Basin Plan. Consultation and the views of local communities are an integral part of the preparation and development of WRPs and the following requirements of the Basin Plan are assessed in relation to consultation.

### 10.07 Consultation to be demonstrated

(1) A water resource plan prepared by a Basin State must contain a description of the consultation in relation to the plan (including in relation to any part of the plan), if any, that was undertaken before the State gave the plan to the Authority under subsection 63(1) of the Act.

### 10.26 Planning for environmental watering

(1) A water resource plan must provide for environmental watering to occur...  
 (2) For the purposes of subsection (1), the water resource plan must be prepared having regard to:  
 (b) the views of local communities, including bodies established by a Basin State that express community views in relation to environmental watering.

### 10.53 Consultation and preparation of water resource plan

(1) A water resource plan must be prepared having regard to the views of relevant Indigenous organisations with respect to the matters identified under section 10.52...

## 1.3 NSW Great Artesian Basin Shallow WRP Area

The NSW Great Artesian Basin Shallow Water Resource Plan covers all groundwater within the unconsolidated sediments regardless of depth and all other geological formations to a maximum depth of 60 m below the surface of the ground.

The NSW Great Artesian Basin Shallow SDL resource units (Figure 1) include the Cenozoic unconsolidated sediments and other geological formations of Early Cretaceous age (approximately 100 million years old) referred to as the Rolling Downs Group.

The unconsolidated sediments are made up of clay, silt, sand, and gravels primarily deposited by the river systems of the Darling River drainage basin but they also include wash from hill slopes. These extensive floodplain deposits are a continuum of the alluvium incorporated into the SDL resource units of the Lower Namoi Alluvium, the Lower Gwydir Alluvium and the Upper Darling Alluvium. Whilst these three alluvium SDL resource units are within the geographic area of this WRP, they are not part of this WRP as they are covered by the Namoi Alluvium, Gwydir Alluvium and Darling Alluvium water resource plans respectively.

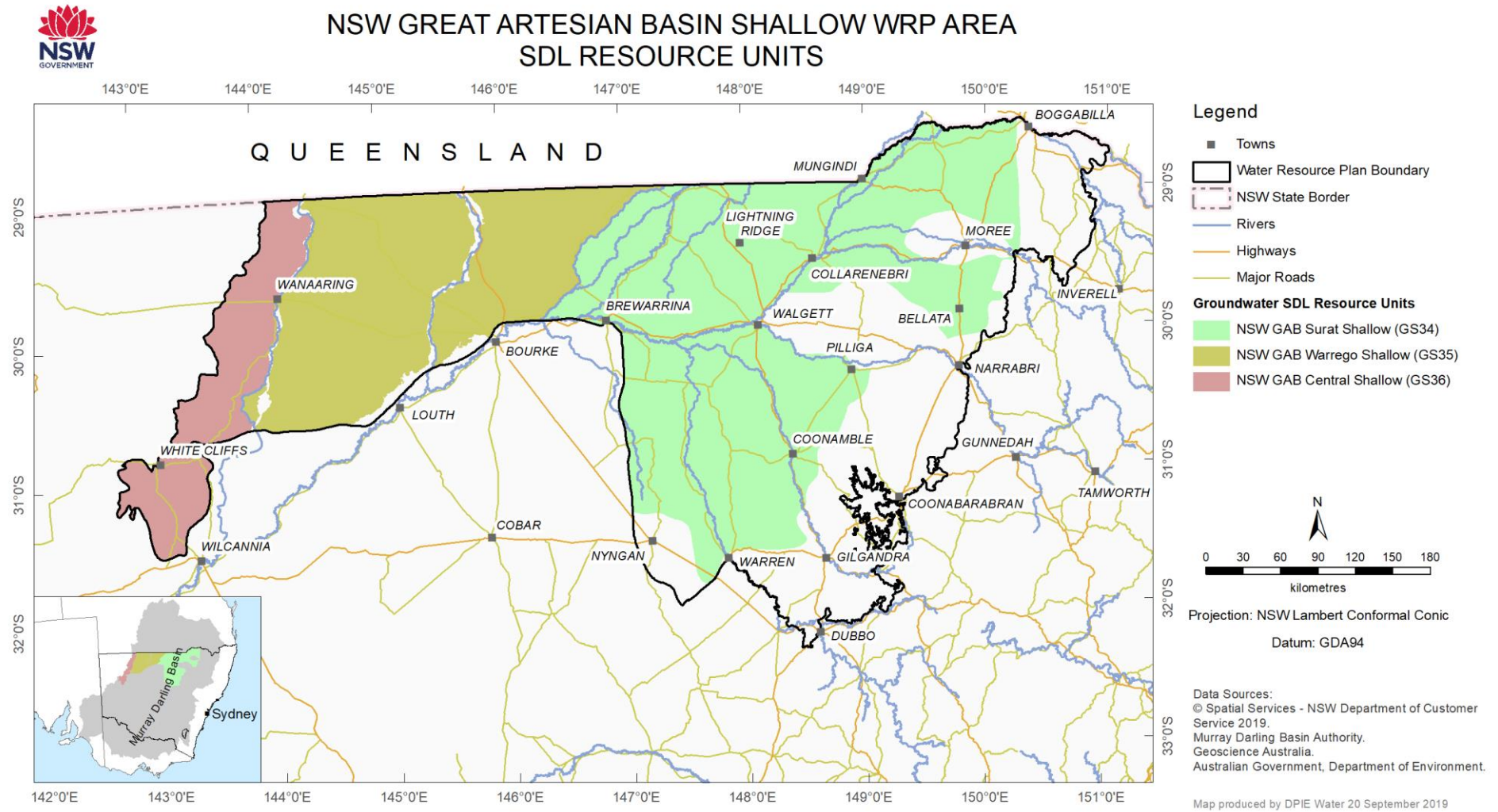
The Rolling Downs group represents consolidated sediments deposited in the early Cretaceous marine transgression and regression and forms upper units of the Great Artesian Basin. They consist of claystone, mudstone, calcrete and shale with minor interlayers of conglomerate and sandstone.

The NSW Great Artesian Basin Shallow SDL resource units sit over and adjacent to the NSW Great Artesian Basin Groundwater Sources, Lachlan Fold Belt SDL resource unit and Kanmantoo Fold Belt SDL resource unit. The permeability of the underlying and adjacent rocks of the Lachlan Fold Belt and Kanmantoo Fold Belt SDL resource units, and the NSW Great Artesian Basin Groundwater Sources is many orders of magnitude lower than that of the NSW Great Artesian Basin Shallow SDL resource units. Groundwater exchange between the NSW Great Artesian Basin Shallow SDL resource units and these low permeable underlying and adjacent rocks is insignificant in the context of the groundwater resources of the NSW Great Artesian Basin Shallow SDL resource units. Consequently, the Lachlan Fold Belt and Kanmantoo Fold Belt SDL resource units and the NSW Great Artesian Basin Groundwater Sources are not considered hydraulically connected in a resource management sense, to the resources in the NSW Great Artesian Basin Shallow SDL resource units.

The major source of recharge to the NSW Great Artesian Basin Shallow SDL resource units is diffuse rainfall recharge. Some minor recharge is also expected to occur as downward leakage from rivers. The discharge from the SDL resource units is primarily extraction for stock use. In the Surat Shallow SDL resource unit, there is also extraction for minor irrigation and domestic use.

Lack of spatially extensive groundwater level information and lateral discontinuity of aquifers in the SDL units hinder the determination of groundwater flow direction in these SDL units. However, at a regional scale it is expected to reflect the subdued topography of the landscape and the surface water drainage basins.





**Figure 1. GW13 NSW Great Artesian Basin Shallow Water Resource Plan Area**



## 2 Consultation

### 2.1 Broad public consultation

Stakeholder consultation is an essential part of the development of NSW WRPs and was undertaken throughout the development of the NSW Great Artesian Basin Shallow WRP. The general public and stakeholders had opportunity to provide comment during the early phase of WRP development through the Status and Issues phase (Section 2.1.1) and then again in the later stages of WRP development during the public exhibition phase (Section 2.1.2).

#### 2.1.1 Status and issues phase

The *NSW Great Artesian Basin Shallow WRP Status and Issues Paper* (NSW Department of Primary Industries Water, now the Department of Planning and Environment – Water Group) was released for public comment in August 2017. This can be viewed at [www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water/plans-programs/water-resource-plans/status](http://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water/plans-programs/water-resource-plans/status)

One public submission on this paper was received and within these submissions, 11 issues were raised. Issues raised in submissions were logged. An Issues Assessment Report was prepared by the NSW Department of Primary Industries Water (now the Department of Planning and Environment – Water Group) for internal and inter-agency analysis, as well as for consideration of the Groundwater Stakeholder Advisory Panel.

#### 2.1.2 Public exhibition phase

The draft *Water Sharing Plan for the NSW Great Artesian Basin Shallow Groundwater Sources 2020* and draft NSW Great Artesian Basin Shallow WRP were released for public comment on 15 July 2019. They can be viewed at (<https://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water/plans-programs/water-resource-plans/drafts>).

During this phase Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (now the Department of Planning and Environment) communicated with stakeholders in a number of ways, including:

- Stakeholder specific consultations
- Public information sessions (early evening sessions)
- Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (now Department of Planning and Environment) website
- Submission email address
- Telephone number for inquiries
- Have Your Say website
- One-on-One consultations (where appropriate)
- Emails to stakeholders
- Local media – media releases
- Social media – tile advertising
- Local press advertising

The NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (now Department of Planning and Environment) invited submissions on the draft WRP and amended WSP. Supporting documents were made available to provide context and background information. The NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (now Department of Planning and Environment) received five submissions on the draft Plan and associated

documents, raising twenty issues for consideration. The public exhibition period provided valuable feedback from stakeholders that helped to develop and inform the changes that are proposed for the NSW Great Artesian Basin Shallow water resource plan and water sharing plan.

## 2.2 Targeted Consultation

Targeted consultation was undertaken for groundwater WRPs through a Groundwater Stakeholder Advisory Panel (SAP) and with First Nations (see section 2.3). The SAP consisted of representatives of key stakeholders and government agencies. Their role was to provide a forum where draft elements of the WRP could be reviewed, and various interests and views could be put forward and discussed to promote common understanding. The SAP was the focal point for targeted consultation for this plan.

### 2.2.1 NSW Groundwater SAP

The Groundwater SAP, established in August 2017 takes its membership from the following stakeholder groups or interests:

- Department of Primary Industries —Water (now Department of Planning and Environment – Water Group)
- Office of Environment and Heritage (now Department of Planning and Environment—Environment and Heritage Group)
- Murray–Darling Basin Authority
- Seven regional representatives of the NSW Irrigators Council
- NSW Nature Conservation Council
- Murray Lower Darling Rivers Indigenous Nations (MLDRIN)
- Northern Basin Aboriginal Nations (NBAN)
- Inland Rivers Network
- NSW Minerals Council
- Local Government NSW

The SAP Terms of Reference can be viewed at

[www.industry.nsw.gov.au/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0009/146844/Stakeholder-advisory-panel-terms-of-reference.pdf](http://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0009/146844/Stakeholder-advisory-panel-terms-of-reference.pdf).

Broadly, the SAP was an advisory panel that were charged with helping to identify issues, examine options, and provide Department of Primary Industries Water (now Department of Planning and Environment – Water Group) with feedback and advice throughout the development of WRPs.

The number of SAP meetings held as part of the Groundwater WRP development and the issues that were discussed at these meetings can be seen in Table 1.

**Table 1. Groundwater WRP SAP Meetings**

SAP Meeting (Number & Description)	Location	Date
<b>SAP Meeting 1: -</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction to the SAP and the Terms of Reference</li> <li>• WRP Process – Road Map</li> <li>• Status and Issues</li> <li>• Resource Descriptions</li> <li>• WRP Evaluation Report</li> <li>• Risk Assessment</li> <li>• The Way Forward</li> </ul>	Sydney, NSW	08 September 2017

SAP Meeting (Number & Description)	Location	Date
<b>SAP Meeting 2: -</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Resource Descriptions and Risk Assessment - update</li> <li>Sustainable Diversions Limits and Long Term Average Annual Extraction Limits</li> <li>Entitlements</li> <li>Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems</li> <li>Issues assessments</li> <li>Consultation strategy</li> </ul>	Sydney, NSW	31 October 2017
<b>SAP Meeting 3: -</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water Renewal Task Force</li> <li>Modelling</li> <li>Incident Response Guidelines and Extreme Events Policy</li> <li>Indigenous Consultation</li> <li>Compliance with LTAAEL</li> <li>Permitted Take (MDBA)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SDL Compliance</li> <li>Groundwater Amendments Disallowance</li> </ul> </li> <li>Permitted Take</li> <li>Issues Assessment Report</li> <li>Risk Assessment Feedback Report</li> </ul>	Sydney, NSW	14 March 2018
<b>SAP Meeting 4: -</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GW WRP development....The road ahead</li> <li>SDL/LTAAEL Amended Policy Proposal</li> <li>Annual Permitted Take/SDL Compliance</li> <li>Recharge/Specification Environmental Water</li> <li>GDE Policy Proposal</li> <li>WSP Policy Proposals;               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Local Impacts Management,</li> <li>2. Distance Rules,</li> <li>3. Account Management Rules,</li> <li>4. Trade,</li> <li>5. Contamination Sources</li> <li>6. Connectivity</li> </ol> </li> <li>WSP/Split Merge Process</li> </ul>	Sydney, NSW	17 May 2018
<b>SAP Meeting 5:-</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lachlan Alluvium Water Resource Plan</li> <li>Lachlan Alluvium Water Sharing Plan</li> <li>Lachlan Alluvium Water Quality Management Plan</li> <li>NSW Groundwater Environmental Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Plan</li> <li>Account management Rules, Carryover and Available Water Determinations</li> <li>Aboriginal Engagement / Cultural Water for the Ngemba Billabong</li> </ul>	Sydney, NSW	3 August 2018

SAP Meeting (Number & Description)	Location	Date
<b>SAP Meeting 6: -</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Final Lachlan Alluvium Water Resource Plan (WRP) – summary of changes (public exhibition and MDBA assessment feedback)</li> <li>Progress on the Macquarie-Castlereagh, Murrumbidgee and Gwydir Alluvium WRP - summary of changes (public exhibition)</li> <li>Update on progress on the remaining draft Groundwater Water Resource Plans</li> </ul>	Sydney, NSW	25 January 2019

### 2.2.2 Workshops for all stakeholder advisory panels

The department convened two All SAP workshops during the course of WRP development. Both workshops were held in Sydney, the first on 11–12 December 2017 and the second on 5–6 June 2018. Attendees included representatives from all WRP SAP committees and key NSW government agencies including the MDBA and CEWO. The first All SAP workshop covered three main topics:

- NSW Government's response to recent reviews and the departments approach to its responsibilities within the Murray–Darling Basin
- Key NSW policy issues requiring resolution in order to progress WRP development
- How SAPs and agencies can work together to deliver the water resource plans over the next 12–18 months.

The second All SAP workshop covered seven main topics:

- State-wide planning assumptions
- The WRP including the LTWP, Risk Assessment and Water Quality Management Plan
- MDBA compliance framework
- Water Renewal Taskforce update
- First Nation engagement and cultural water
- Northern Basin Floodplain Harvesting and Northern watering event and Southern Basin SDL Adjustment Mechanism and Pre-requisite Policy Measures
- Groundwater policy update

### 2.2.3 Interjurisdictional consultation

The connectivity between the NSW Great Artesian Basin Shallow WRP area and other, adjacent SDL resources units can be found in Risk Assessment for the NSW Great Artesian Basin Shallow (Table 3-1 of Schedule D). The risks to water users in the connected SDL resource units was assessed in the Risk Assessment for the NSW Great Artesian Basin Shallow WRP Area (Table 4-14 of Schedule D).

Both the South Australian Department for Environment and Water (DEWNR) and the Queensland Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy (DNRME) had the opportunity to comment on the draft *Water Sharing Plan for the NSW Great Artesian Basin Shallow Groundwater Sources 2020* and the draft Great Artesian Basin Shallow WRP through the following forums:

- during the public exhibition of the draft plan outlined in Section 2.1.2 of this consultation report
- existing Basin State water management forums, including the Water Resource Plan Working Group and Basin Officials Committee.

## 2.3 First Nation consultation

The NSW Great Artesian Basin Shallow WRP area is located within the traditional lands of, and is significant to, the Barkandji and Maljangapa, Bigambul, Budjiti, Euahlayi, Gomeroi/Kamilaroi/Gamilaroi/Gamilaraay, Guwamu (Kooma), Kambuwai, Kunja, Kwiambal, Murrawarri, Ngarabal, Ngemba, Wailwan, and Wiradjuri

Nations and Traditional Owners. The department has spent time engaging and consulting Traditional Owners of these groups to identify and record objectives and outcomes for Aboriginal spiritual and cultural values and uses of water resources within the NSW Great Artesian Basin Shallow WRP area.

Consultation with Traditional Owners was undertaken using a nation-based model. The department facilitated the gathering of cultural information from Traditional Owners in line with a consultation model that vest the ownership of cultural information with the Traditional Owners. The consultation model was also designed to respond to participants' wishes to bring attention to the negative effects of social inequity resulting from dispossession and cutting of cultural bonds to water resources. In addition, the consultation was an important opportunity for the department to share knowledge and insight into how water is managed in NSW. As such, the engagement activities were responsive to participants' desire to understand how water policy and management decisions are made.

Further, the consultation model was designed to be respectful of the wishes of participants, including their preferences for dealing with sensitive and difficult topics. These aspects of the consultation model were critical to build trust and confidence that engagement on water resource management would be positive and achieve good outcomes for First Nations in NSW. Where available, the Nation reports including the development of cultural objectives, values and uses are attached to this Schedule in Attachments A to O.

Information relating to the Barkandji/Maljangapa Nations and the Gomeroi/Kamilaroi/Gamilaroi/Gamilaraay Nation is not yet included in this Schedule or as an attached report.

NSW engaged with the Barkandji and Maljangapa Traditional Owners through the Barkandji Native Title Group Aboriginal Corporation, who formally requested that they be consulted directly, rather than via MLDRIN or NBAN. The Barkandji Native Title Group Aboriginal Corporation also advised that Barkandji and Maljangapa Traditional Owners should be consulted together.

NSW engaged with the Gomeroi/Kamilaroi/Gamilaroi/Gamilaraay Traditional Owners. Further information on the consultation process to date with this Nation can be found below.

NSW will continue to work with the Barkandji/Maljangapa Nations, the Gomeroi/Kamilaroi/Gamilaroi/Gamilaraay Nation and the Board of the Barkandji Native Title Group Aboriginal Corporation.

### 2.3.1 Face to Face interviews

A series of face-to-face interviews were undertaken with Senior Traditional Owners. Senior Traditional Owners who participated in the face-to-face interviews were drawn from three separate categories – grassroots, Native Title applicants and suggestions from other interview participants. Several Traditional Owners participated in these interviews, who represented a large number of people in their own family groups and spoke for a broad range of communities and different areas of Nations. These interviews assisted in formulating the discussion undertaken in the workshops.

- **Barkandji and Maljangapa Nations** - Face to face interviews were conducted with three Traditional Owners representing the Barkandji and Maljangapa Nations.
- **Bigambul Nation** - Permission was granted by the Bigambul Nation through the Recognised Native Title Body Corporate (RNTBC), the Bigambul Native Title Aboriginal Corporation (BNTAC) for Murawin to use the information collected in consultations with Queensland Government during 2017. A face-to-face meeting was held with the Bigambul Nation to review the data presented in the report.
- **Budjiti Nation** - Face to face interviews were conducted with five Senior Traditional Owners who represented two different family groups.
- **Euahlayi Nation** - Four of the participants in the workshop in Walgett were Senior Traditional Owners who did face-to-face interviews, including the Nation Organiser.
- **Gomeroi/Kamilaroi/Gamilaroi/Gamilaraay Nation** - Eight Senior Traditional Owners were interviewed. These Senior Traditional Owners represented eight different family groups.
- **Guwamu/Kooma Nation** - Face to face interviews were conducted with two identified Senior Traditional Owners.

- **Kambuwal Nation** - Face to face interviews were conducted with nine identified senior Traditional Owners.
- **Kunja Nation** - Face to face interviews were conducted with seven identified Senior Traditional Owners.
- **Kwiambal Nation** - Seven Traditional Owners were interviewed or approached for interview on Kwiambal Country. Two declined but gave information at the workshop.
- **Murrawarri Nation** - Face to face interviews were conducted with seven Murrawarri Senior Traditional Owners, including the Nation Organiser.
- **Ngarabal Nation** - Five Traditional Owners representing nine different family groups were interviewed and spoke for a broad range of communities and different areas of Ngarabal Country.
- **Ngemba Nation** - Seven Traditional Owners representing nine different family groups and approximately 2000 community members were interviewed and spoke for a broad range of communities and different areas of Ngemba Country.
- **Wailwan Nation** - No face to face interviews have been conducted due to time constraints before the planned workshop, however during the workshop it was clearly outlined that should any Wailwan Nation members be identified as wishing to participate in a face to face interview meetings could be arranged.
- **Wiradjuri Nation**: Six Traditional Owners were interviewed across the Wiradjuri Nation. These Traditional Owners represented several family groups, community people and spoke for a broad range of communities and different areas of Wiradjuri Country.

### 2.3.2 Workshops

Following on from the face-to-face interviews First Nation consultation workshops are undertaken. To date workshops have been held and finalised in the following Nations:

- **Barkandji and Maljangapa Nations** - Five workshops were conducted with the Barkandji/Maljangapa Nations during June and October 2019. Approximately 30 people attended the workshops.
- **Bigambul Nation** - No workshops were conducted by NSW in consultation with the Bigambul Nation.
- **Budjiti Nation** - Two workshops were conducted in August 2019. A total of 5 participants, including four Budjiti Traditional Owners attended.
- **Euahlayi Nation** – One workshop was conducted on 4 November Walgett. A total of 8 Euahlayi Traditional Owners attended. Historically connected participants in a Brewarrina Workshop came from Gamilaroi and Ngemba Nations.
- **Gomerioi/Kamilaroi/Gamilaroi/Gamilaraay Nation** - Workshops were held in Tamworth, Walgett, Moree and Tingha in April 2018. A total of 31 participants, including 30 Gomerioi/Kamilaroi/Gamilaroi/Gamilaraay Traditional Owners, attended workshops.
- **Guwamu/Kooma Nation** - One workshop was conducted in October 2019. A total of 4 participants were involved in discussions.
- **Kambuwal Nation** - One workshop was held in July 2019. A total of 4 participants, including Traditional Owners, attended the workshop.
- **Kunja Nation** - One workshop was held in July 2019. A total of 7 participants, including Senior Traditional Owners attended the workshop.
- **Kwiambal Nation** - One workshop was held in December 2018. A total of 30 participants including Kwiambal Traditional Owners attended.
- **Murrawarri Nation** - One workshop was held on the 9th August 2019 at the Brewarrina Central School Community Hub. A total of five Murrawarri Senior Traditional Owners, including the Nation Organiser, and one interested community member attended.
- **Ngarabal Nation** - Two workshops were held with the Glen Innes Local Aboriginal Land Council in October and November 2019. A total of 12 Ngarabal Traditional Owners attended, representing 9 families.
- **Ngemba Nation** - Workshops were held in Brewarrina and Bourke in October/November 2018. A total of 13 Traditional Owners attended the workshops along with 40 other participants.



- **Wailwan Nation** - Two workshops were held in March 2018 with approximately 16 Wailwan Nation members attending.
- **Wiradjuri Nation** - Nine workshops were held between December 2018 and May 2019 across three geographic areas of the Nation (Lachlan, Macquarie and Murrumbidgee). Approximately 50 Wiradjuri Traditional Owner participants attended these workshops.

Common themes were used to guide discussion in the workshops. These were established during the face-to-face interviews and included:

- Water is life
- Healthy Country and people
- Cultural continuity and revival
- Custodianship and jurisdiction
- Compensation and redress
- Management and control
- Communication and partnership
- Water access
- Water quality
- Communication and input on water from the department.

### 2.3.3 Consultation outcomes

This Schedule and attached reports include information relating to:

- the social, spiritual and cultural objectives
- strategies for achieving these objectives
- the social, spiritual and cultural values
- the social, spiritual and cultural uses and
- views of Indigenous people with respect to cultural flows.

Reports on the outcomes of the consultations with each nation group are included at Attachments A to O of this consultation report.

These reports demonstrate that:

- The WRP was developed in a way that had genuine regard to objectives and outcomes in respect of social, spiritual and cultural values and uses of the water resources by Traditional Owners.
- Consultation with relevant Indigenous organisations was undertaken.

Information is not yet included in this Schedule or as an attached report for the following Nations:

- Barkandji/Maliangapa
- Gomeroi/Kamilaroi/Gamilaroi/Gamilaraay.

NSW will continue to work with these Nations. Subject to their agreement, the department will incorporate the Nation's objectives and outcomes for the management and use of water resources of the WRP based on their values and uses into this WRP at a later date. NSW will provide a progress report on this work to the MDBA within two years of accreditation of this WRP.

In addition to consulting with Traditional Owners, the NSW Government consulted with several organisations, including Native Title Services Corporation (NTS Corp), Local Aboriginal Land Councils (LALCS), Aboriginal Medical Services (AMS), and where relevant the local community working party of the Murdi Paaki Regional Assembly. It was the role of the First Nations Community Organiser to assist the department in identifying key stakeholders, including Aboriginal Organisations, who were contacted.

Information about the Aboriginal Organisations contacted during consultation is provided in some of the First Nation reports, but not all. Where it is available it is summarised here:

- **Barkandji and Maljangapa** Barkandji Maljangapa Native Title Prescribed Body Corporate, Menindee Land Council, Bourke Community Working Party
- **Bigambul** Bigambul Native Title Aboriginal Corporation (BNTAC)
- **Budjiti** No organisations specifically listed in First Nation report
- **Euahlayi** No organisations specifically listed in First Nation report
- **Gomerioi/Kamilaroi/Gamilaroi/Gamilaraay** Native Title applicants – stakeholder list provided by Native Title Services Corporation
- **Guwamu/Kooma** No organisations specifically listed in First Nation report
- **Kambuwai** No organisations specifically listed in First Nation report
- **Kunja** No organisations specifically listed in First Nation report
- **Kwiambal** No organisations specifically listed in First Nation report
- **Murrawarri** Murrawarri Nation Tribal Council
- **Ngarabal** Glen Innes Local Aboriginal Land Council
- **Ngemba** Brewarrina Ngemba Community Working Party, Bourke's Maragnuka, Brewarrina Local Aboriginal Land Council, Ngemba Ngyiamppa Wailwan Wangaaypuwan Native Title Applicant group
- **Wailwan** No organisations specifically listed in First Nation report
- **Wiradjuri** No organisations specifically listed in First Nation report

This demonstrates that:

- The consultation had regard to the views of relevant Indigenous organisations with respect to inclusion of Indigenous representation in the preparation and implementation of the plan.
- The consultation had regard to the views of relevant Indigenous organisations with respect to Indigenous social, cultural, spiritual and customary objectives, and strategies for achieving these objectives.
- The consultation had regard to the views of relevant Indigenous organisations with respect to encouragement of active and informed participation of Indigenous people.
- The consultation had regard to the views of relevant Indigenous organisations with respect to risks to Indigenous values and Indigenous uses arising from the use and management of the water resources of the water resource plan area.
- The consultation has regard to the views of Indigenous people with respect to cultural associations with the groundwater resources of this WRPA.

The consultation with the First Nations included the outcomes listed in Table 2.

Table 2. First Nations consultation outcomes

Section	Requirement	Outcome
10.52(1)	WRP identifies objectives and outcomes toward the management of the water resource desirable to Indigenous people.	An overview of the objectives and values are in Section 1.3.1 of the NSW Great Artesian Basin Shallow WRP.
10.52(2)	WRP developed with genuine regard to objectives and outcomes in respect of social, spiritual and cultural values and uses by Indigenous people.	An overview of the objectives and values are in Section 1.3.1, of the NSW Great Artesian Basin Shallow WRP.
10.53(1)	That consultation with relevant Indigenous organisations was undertaken, including with the Northern Basin Aboriginal Nations.	Regular contact occurred with Executive of NBAN throughout the planning process. NBAN assisted as nation organisers and had an important role in the consultation process.
10.53(1)(a)	WRP prepared having regard to the views of relevant Indigenous organisations with respect to native title rights, native title claims and Indigenous Land Use Agreements provided for by <i>the Native Title Act, 1993</i> .	<p>The department decided that it was not appropriate to conduct general discussions about Native Title where a Nation had not lodged an application or received a determination.</p> <p>It is therefore not considered appropriate for the Nation report to state the details of the discussions. To the extent that Nation participants wished to include issues relating to Indigenous Land Use Agreements and claims under the <i>Native Title Act 1993</i> in relation to the water resources of the NSW Great Artesian Basin Shallow WRP area, these views are included in respective Nation reports.</p> <p>A letter was sent to NTS Corp to advise them that further consultations on country would occur and seeking advice on how to consult with Native Title group(s).</p>
10.53(1)(b)	WRP prepared having regard to the views of relevant Indigenous organisations towards registered Aboriginal heritage relating to the water resources of the WRPA.	Local Aboriginal Lands Councils were invited; opportunities arose for them to speak of any listed sites on the heritage register throughout the workshop sessions. More information is included in Chapter 4 of the Water Resource Plan.
10.53(1)(c)	WRP prepared having regard to the inclusion of Indigenous representation in the preparation and implementation of the plan.	NBAN provided advice on the Nation-based consultation approach undertaken by the department. NBAN provided contacts for the NBAN Delegates of each Nation group. These contacts sometimes, but not always, became the Nation organiser. The Nation organiser guided the Nation consultation process and gave advice, input and recommendations on which Traditional Owners to engage. This resulted in the relevant Traditional Owners for the NSW Great Artesian Basin Shallow WRP area being represented. More details on Indigenous representation can be seen in the First Nations Consultation Reports, Attachments A to O of Schedule C.
10.53(1)(d)	WRP prepared having regard to the views of relevant Indigenous organisations towards Indigenous social, cultural, spiritual and customary objectives and strategies for achieving these objectives.	Consultation included what people would want in the future in relation to social, cultural, spiritual and customary objectives and strategies.

		More detail on strategies and objectives can be found in the First Nations Consultation Reports, Attachments A to O, and section 2.3.4 of this Schedule C.
10.53(1)(e)	WRP prepared having regard to the views of relevant Indigenous organisations towards encouragement of active and informed participation of Indigenous people.	<p>The consultation process undertaken by the department was designed to follow cultural protocols to ensure active and informed participation of Indigenous people, within the timeframes available.</p> <p>Relationships with Traditional Owners and a shared understanding of water management were developed prior to conducting workshops with the broader group of First Nation Traditional Owners.</p> <p>More detail on the engagement process can be found in the First Nations Consultation Reports, Attachments A to O of Schedule C.</p>
10.53(1)(f)	WRP prepared having regard to the views of relevant Indigenous organisations towards risks to Indigenous values and Indigenous uses arising from the use and management of the water resources of the water resource plan area.	The risks to Indigenous Values and Uses are outlined in First Nations Consultation Reports, Attachments A to O of Schedule C. The risks identified by the Nations are summarised in a separate table in section 3.4 of the Water Resource Plan.
10.54	That the consultation has regard to the views of Indigenous people with respect to cultural flows.	<p>Throughout the First Nations consultation, cultural flows was a key theme raised as cultural practices and events are supported by cultural flows.</p> <p>Views of Aboriginal people with respect to cultural flows are set out in section 4.4.1 of the Water Resource Plan. See also attachments A to O of Schedule C.</p>
10.55	WRP provides at least the same level of protection of Indigenous values and Indigenous uses as provided in a transitional or an interim water resource plan for the WRPA.	Improved water sharing plan objectives ensure protection for Indigenous values and uses aligned with practical strategies and quantifiable performance indicators.

The Nation consultations have identified areas for further development in pursuit of Aboriginal objectives and outcomes in water management, including Cultural Heritage, Native Title and cultural flows. The NSW government has taken several initiatives in this regard, with the most important of these being the development and implementation of the 2021 NSW Water Strategy<sup>1</sup>. A new inland waters 'closing the gap' target is also under active consideration by governments across the country. Further engagement with First Nations will be a critical component of these initiatives.

### 2.3.4 Alignment between First Nations and water sharing plan objects

Water sharing plan objectives are only partially able to address First Nations objectives identified in this WRP area. WSP objectives align broadly with First Nations objectives in relation to protection of native plant and animal species. Other WSP objectives are partially aligned with First Nations objectives, for example in regard to clean water in rivers and healthy water for domestic use. Water sharing plan objectives also align to an extent with First Nations objectives relating to cultural practices associated with water sources. Water sharing

<sup>1</sup> <https://dpie.nsw.gov.au/water/plans-and-programs/nsw-water-strategy>

plans have provision for access to water for cultural and Native Title purposes, which are an important objective for First Nations in this area. Table 3 demonstrates the alignment between First Nations and targeted water sharing plan objectives in the *Water Sharing Plan for the NSW Great Artesian Basin Groundwater Sources 2020*.

Some of the First Nations objectives do not directly relate to current water sharing plan objectives, and some fall outside of the scope of water sharing under the WMA 2000. As outlined above, the NSW Government is committed to exploring the full range of Aboriginal objectives through the NSW Water Strategy and the NSW Aboriginal Water Strategy within it. A full range of strategies will be developed in partnership with Aboriginal people over the coming years. Their implementation is likely to involve not only communities, but a range of government and non-government players, legislative frameworks and programs.

First Nations objectives in this area also focused on culturally appropriate consultation, inclusion, and ownership of information. This is addressed through the Department's engagement program with First Nations.

Table 3. Aboriginal peoples' objectives and outcomes in water resource management

WSP environmental objectives	First Nations environmental objectives
<p>(1) The broad environmental objective of this Plan is to protect the condition of the groundwater sources and their groundwater-dependent ecosystems over the term of this Plan.</p> <p>(2) The targeted environmental objectives of this Plan are as follows—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) to protect the extent and condition of high priority groundwater-dependent ecosystems,</li> <li>(b) to contribute to the prevention of structural damage to aquifers of the groundwater sources resulting from groundwater extraction.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Environmental Improvements: Improving water quality and cleaning up the rivers (Bigambul Nations)</li> <li>– Greater equity and balance between stakeholders is achieved in water allocations. (Euahlayi Nations)</li> <li>– Less water extracted by industry (Guwamu (Kooma))</li> <li>– Environmental flows (as distinct from cultural flows) and other mechanisms restore water environments to good health, including clean, good quality water in rivers and creeks and functioning riparian zones. (Murrawarri Nation)</li> <li>– Clean, healthy water in a flowing, connected system. (Ngemba)</li> <li>– Water environments are restored to good health, including clean, good quality water in rivers and creeks and functioning riparian zones (Ngemba)</li> <li>– We want to see water allocated in this order of importance: Quality life water for people and all wildlife and plants. Environmental water: and Commercial water (Wailwan)</li> <li>– Access to healthy water (Wiradjuri- Macquarie)</li> </ul>
<p>(3) The strategies for reaching the targeted environmental objectives of this Plan are as follows—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) reserve all water for the environment in excess of the limits to the availability of water,</li> <li>(b) manage extractions under access licences and basic landholder rights within the limits to the availability of water,</li> <li>(c) manage the construction and use of water supply works to minimise impacts on high priority groundwater-dependent ecosystems and groundwater quality.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Commitment: Governmental and Local Council commitment to more responsible, sustainable farming practices to ensure water is used in ways which do not impact negatively on environment. (Bigambul Nations)</li> </ul>
<p>(4) The performance indicator used to measure the success of the strategies for reaching the broad environmental objective in subclause (1) is an evaluation of the extent to which the combined outcomes of the targeted objectives in subclause (2) have contributed to achieving the broad objective.</p> <p>(5) The performance indicators used to measure the success of the strategies for reaching the targeted environmental objectives in subclause (2) are the changes in</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Rivers, creeks and bodies of water function together as a flowing, connected system. (Euahlayi Nations)</li> <li>– Rivers, creeks and bodies of water function together as a flowing, connected system. (Murrawarri Nation)</li> </ul>



trends in ecological condition during the term of this Plan as assessed using one or more of the following—

- (a) the extent and recorded condition of high priority groundwater-dependent ecosystems,
- (b) the recorded condition of target populations of high priority groundwater-dependent native vegetation,
- (c) the recorded values of groundwater levels.

### WSP economic objectives

### First Nations economic objectives

- (1) The broad economic objective of this Plan is to provide access to groundwater to optimise economic benefits for groundwater-dependent businesses and local economies.
- (2) The targeted economic objectives of this Plan are as follows—
  - (a) to provide groundwater trading opportunities for groundwater-dependent businesses,
  - (b) to provide access to groundwater in the long term for groundwater-dependent businesses.
- (3) The strategies for reaching the targeted economic objectives of this Plan are as follows—
  - (a) provide a clear framework for sharing water among water users,
  - (b) where possible and subject to assessment of local impacts, provide for flexibility of access to water and trade of water allocations and entitlements within the groundwater sources,
  - (c) manage extractions to specified limits over the long term.
- (4) The performance indicator used to measure the success of the strategies for reaching the broad economic objective in subclause (1) is an evaluation of the extent to which the combined outcomes of the targeted economic objectives in subclause (2) have contributed to achieving the broad objective.
- (5) The performance indicators used to measure the success of the strategies for reaching the targeted economic objectives in subclause (2) are the changes or trends in economic benefits during the term of this Plan as assessed using one or more of the following—
  - (a) the economic benefits of water extraction and use,
  - (b) the economic benefits of water trading as demonstrated by—
    - i. the annual number or volume of share components of access licences transferred or assigned, and
    - ii. the weighted average unit price of share components of access licences transferred or assigned, and

- iii. the annual volume of water allocations assigned, and
- iv. the weighted average unit price of water allocation assigned,
- (c) the recorded values of groundwater levels.

### WSP Aboriginal cultural objectives

- (1) The broad Aboriginal cultural objective of this Plan is to maintain the spiritual, social, customary and economic values and uses of groundwater by Aboriginal people.
- (2) The targeted Aboriginal cultural objectives of this Plan are as follows—
  - (a) to provide access to groundwater in the exercise of native title rights,
  - (b) to provide access to groundwater for Aboriginal cultural use,
  - (c) to protect groundwater-dependent culturally significant areas.

### First Nations Aboriginal cultural objectives

- Important Euahlayi cultural sites are revived, with consistently maintained water levels. (Euahlayi Nations)
- Greater equity and balance between stakeholders is achieved in water allocations. (Euahlayi Nations)

- (3) The strategies for reaching the targeted Aboriginal cultural objectives of this Plan are as follows—
  - (a) manage access to groundwater consistently with the exercise of native title rights,
  - (b) provide for groundwater associated with Aboriginal cultural values and purposes,
  - (c) manage extractions under access licences and basic landholder rights within the extraction limits,
  - (d) manage the construction and use of water supply works to minimise impacts on groundwater quality,
  - (e) manage the construction and use of water supply works to minimise impacts on groundwater-dependent culturally significant areas.

- (4) The performance indicator used to measure the success of the strategies for reaching the broad Aboriginal cultural objective in subclause (1) is an evaluation of the extent to which the combined outcomes of the targeted Aboriginal cultural objectives in subclause (2) have contributed to achieving the broad objective.

- Important Euahlayi cultural sites are revived, with consistently maintained water levels. (Euahlayi Nations)

- (5) The performance indicators used to measure the success of the strategies for reaching the targeted Aboriginal cultural objectives in subclause (2) are the changes or trends in Aboriginal cultural benefits during the term of this Plan as assessed using one or more of the following—
- (a) the use of water by Aboriginal people, by measuring factors including—
    - i. the extent to which native title rights are capable of being exercised, consistent with any determination of native title,
    - ii. the extent to which access to water has contributed to the achievement of Aboriginal cultural outcomes,
  - (b) the extent to which Aboriginal people have considered the operation of this Plan to be beneficial to meeting their needs for groundwater-dependent Aboriginal cultural uses and values,
  - (c) the extent to which changes in the use of water by Aboriginal people can be attributed to the strategies in subclause (3) and the provisions in this Plan,
  - (d) the recorded values of groundwater levels.

#### WSP social and cultural objectives

- (1) The broad social and cultural objective of this Plan is to provide access to groundwater to support groundwater-dependent social and cultural values.
- (2) The targeted social and cultural objectives of this Plan are as follows—
  - (a) to provide for access to water for basic landholder rights, town water supply and licensed domestic and stock purposes,
  - (b) to provide for access to water for groundwater-dependent cultural and community purposes.
- (3) The strategies for reaching the targeted social and cultural objectives of this Plan are as follows—
  - (a) provide groundwater for basic landholder rights, town water supply, and for licensed domestic and stock purposes,
  - (b) manage the construction and use of water supply works to minimise impacts on basic landholder rights and town water supply,
  - (c) manage the construction and use of water supply works to minimise impacts on groundwater quality.
- (4) The performance indicator used to measure the success of the strategies for reaching the broad social and cultural objective in subclause (1) is an evaluation of the extent to which the combined outcomes of the targeted social and cultural objectives in subclause (2) have contributed to achieving the broad objective.
- (5) The performance indicators used to measure the success of the strategies for reaching the targeted social and cultural objectives in subclause (2) are the changes

#### First Nations social and cultural objectives

- Greater equity and balance between stakeholders is achieved in water allocations. (Euahlayi Nations)
- Health and wellbeing of the Ngemba community and its people. (Ngemba)
- We would like to see the water licence holders unable to sell or trade the water and/or licences. (Wailwan)
- We would like to see the water licence holders unable to sell or trade the water and/or licences. (Wailwan)

or trends in social and cultural benefits during the term of this Plan as assessed using one or more of the following—

- (a) the social and cultural uses of water during the term of this Plan, by measuring factors including—
  - i. the extent to which basic landholder rights and licensed domestic and stock purposes have been met, and
  - ii. the extent to which local water utility access licence requirements have been met,
- (b) the recorded values of groundwater levels.

Water sharing plans are not able to address a range of First Nations objectives, for example issues with access to and maintenance of cultural sites. Water sharing plans are also unable to address objectives relating to broader issues such as employment opportunities, land use, and systemic inequity. Table 4 identifies First Nation objectives that are not identified as part of targeted objectives in the water sharing plans.

**Table 4. First Nation objectives where there has been no identified targeted water sharing plan objectives**

#### Murrawarri

- The Murrawarri Nation is adequately financially resourced to participate in the water market. (Murrawarri Nation)
- The Murrawarri Nation is given its own water allocation. (Murrawarri Nation)
- The Murrawarri people can continue their role as owners and managers of their Country and water. (Murrawarri Nation)
- A water compact is developed and signed between First Nations. (Murrawarri Nation)
- Through the Murrawarri People's Council and the People's Administration, the Murrawarri Nation have control over their own water governance model and processes. (Murrawarri Nation)
- Murrawarri people have ownership of their Country and waterways. (Murrawarri Nation)
- The long term development of skills and capacity of the Murrawarri people in water and land management is built through employment and training programs. (Murrawarri Nation)
- Murrawarri water-related economic interests are encouraged and supported. (Murrawarri Nation)
- The Murrawarri people have access to their culturally important water-dependent sites and areas. (Murrawarri Nation)
- The Murrawarri Nation has strong, coordinated representation within NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment - Water. (Murrawarri Nation)
- Cultural events and celebrations are held regularly on and near waterways. (Murrawarri Nation)
- The Murrawarri people are able to continue and revive cultural and spiritual practices by waterways. (Murrawarri Nation)
- Strong, respectful and effective partnerships are built between the Murrawarri Nation, government and other stakeholders in water planning. (Murrawarri Nation)

#### Ngemba

- Cultural sites, including the Ngunnhu (fish traps), are protected and mapped, with access granted. (Ngemba)
- Ngemba ownership of their lands and waters, managed through a cultural governance model. (Ngemba)

- Partnerships between government and Ngemba Nation raise cultural awareness. (Ngemba)
- Effective partnerships built between Ngemba Nation and other water stakeholders, including First Nations. (Ngemba)
- The Ngemba Nation has representation within Department of Planning, Industry and Environment for effective consultation and co-management. (Ngemba)
- The Ngemba people continue partnerships with other First Nations for water management (Ngemba)
- Ngemba people are employed in water management in roles including conservation and monitoring. (Ngemba)
- Ngemba economic interests are encouraged and supported and cultural flows granted. (Ngemba)
- Ngemba people are employed in water management in roles including conservation and monitoring (Ngemba)
- Ngemba economic interests are encouraged and supported (Ngemba)
- The Ngemba people revive their practice of using waterways for the transfer of knowledge (Ngemba)
- Waterways used for cultural practices, including transfer of knowledge. (Ngemba)
- The Ngemba people have control over their water interests to continue their role as custodians. (Ngemba)
- The Ngemba Nation is given its own water allocation for greater equity. (Ngemba)
- The Ngannhu are protected as an important cultural site. (Ngemba)
- Cultural knowledge, practices and sites along waterways are comprehensively mapped (Ngemba)
- The Ngemba people continue and revive cultural practices by waterways (Ngemba)
- The Ngemba people have access to their culturally important water-dependent sites and areas (Ngemba)
- Ngemba people have ownership of culturally important lands and waters (Ngemba)
- The Ngemba people receive water in the form of cultural flows (Ngemba)
- Cultural awareness is built across government departments (Ngemba)
- Ngemba people are informed clearly and consistently about water policy, planning and practices. (Ngemba)
- The Ngemba people have control over their own water governance model and processes (Ngemba)
- The Ngemba people have control over their water interests to continue their role as custodians. (Ngemba)
- The Ngemba Nation is given its own water allocation (Ngemba)
- Greater equity and balance between stakeholders is achieved in water allocations (Ngemba)
- Strong, respectful and effective partnerships are built between the Ngemba Nation and other stakeholders in water planning (Ngemba)
- Ngemba people are informed clearly and consistently about water policy, planning and practices (Ngemba)
- The Ngemba Nation has strong, coordinated representation within NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment - Water (Ngemba)
- The Ngemba people use and monitor environmental water in partnership with NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment - Water and Department of Planning, Industry and Environment – Biodiversity and Conservation (Ngemba)
- Consultation with Ngemba people regarding their water interests is consistent, culturally appropriate and effective (Ngemba)

## Budjiti

- Budjiti Nation participate in all aspects of natural resource management of the Paroo River country. (Budjiti Nation)
- To achieve cultural, spiritual, social and economic outcomes and well-being for Budjiti people. (Budjiti Nation)
- To have a cultural flow allocation for Budjiti people. (Budjiti Nation)
- To establish and maintain strong and productive relationships (Budjiti Nation)

- To promote cultural land management (Budjiti Nation)

## Euahlayi

- Monitoring and compliance procedures around water sharing and extraction are more transparent and effective. (Euahlayi Nations)
- The Euahlayi people establish a strategic plan to engage in the benefits of environmental water. (Euahlayi Nations)
- Euahlayi people are employed in water management as water rangers for conservation and monitoring. (Euahlayi Nations)
- The Euahlayi Nation has its own water allocation. (Euahlayi Nations)
- Euahlayi people have ownership of culturally important lands and waters. (Euahlayi Nations)
- The Euahlayi people receive water in the form of cultural flows. (Euahlayi Nations)
- Strong, respectful and effective partnerships are built between the Euahlayi Nation and other stakeholders in water planning. (Euahlayi Nations)
- The Euahlayi people have access to their culturally important water-dependent sites and areas. (Euahlayi Nations)
- The Euahlayi people revive their practice of using waterways for the transfer of knowledge. (Euahlayi Nations)
- The Euahlayi people continue and revive cultural practices by waterways. (Euahlayi Nations)
- The impact of infrastructure on flow of water in Euahlayi Country is addressed in consultation with Euahlayi representatives. (Euahlayi Nations)
- The Euahlayi people manage their own water interests. (Euahlayi Nations)
- The Euahlayi people have control over their own water governance model and processes. (Euahlayi Nations)
- The Euahlayi Nation has strong, coordinated representation within the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment - Water. (Euahlayi Nations)
- The Euahlayi people continue to build on partnerships with other First Nations for water management. (Euahlayi Nations)
- Consultation with Euahlayi people regarding their water interests is consistent, culturally appropriate and effective. (Euahlayi Nations)
- The Queensland and New South Wales governments coordinate their water management practices. (Euahlayi Nations)

## Guwamu (Kooma)

- Guwamu land and water is protected, in particular the Guwamu owned properties Murra and Bendee Downs. These two properties are at the heart of the Guwamu nation and will continue to be a focus of the nation in years to come.
- Guwamu desire to be equal partners on land and water management activities and will continue seek out opportunities for collaboration with others across the Guwamu nation area. (Guwamu (Kooma))
- To achieve improvement for Guwamu people, including cultural, spiritual, social and economic outcomes. (Guwamu (Kooma))
- A cultural flow allocation for Guwamu people. (Guwamu (Kooma))
- To manage Guwamu resources, especially the rivers, creeks and wetland systems for Guwamu Nation and culture. (Guwamu (Kooma))
- Guwamu Nation hold cultural water entitlements. (Guwamu (Kooma))
- To establish and maintain strong and productive relationships (Guwamu (Kooma))
- To promote Guwamu land management practices (Guwamu (Kooma))
- Guwamu Nation participate in all aspects of natural resource management on Guwamu country. (Guwamu (Kooma))



## Kunja

- Kunja Nation hold cultural water entitlements (Kunja Nation)
- To have a cultural flow allocation for Kunja people (Kunja Nation)
- Kunja Nation participate in all aspects of management of the Warrego River country (Kunja Nation)
- To achieve social and economic outcomes and well-being for Kunja people (Kunja Nation)
- To establish and maintain strong and productive relationships (Kunja Nation)
- To promote cultural land management (Kunja Nation)
- To manage Kunja lands for the benefit of Kunja Nation and culture (Kunja Nation)

## Wiradjuri

- Cultural practices are continued and revived (Wiradjuri- Lachlan)
- Wiradjuri people can use the rivers for transfer of knowledge (Wiradjuri- Lachlan)
- Access to culturally important water dependant sites and areas (Wiradjuri- Lachlan)
- Allocation of cultural flows to Wiradjuri people for cultural practices (Wiradjuri- Lachlan)
- Wiradjuri people are involved in managing the rivers and conservation (Wiradjuri- Lachlan)
- Wiradjuri people can continue their role as custodians (Wiradjuri- Lachlan)
- Acknowledgement of Wiradjuri people's custodianship of water is recognised and written into future WRP and policies (Wiradjuri- Lachlan)
- Illegal activity along the river is monitored and policed (Wiradjuri- Lachlan)
- Wiradjuri people continue to be engaged and represented in water planning (Wiradjuri- Lachlan)

## Wailwan

- Education of non-Aboriginal people on the knowledge of how to care for land and water is paramount and we would like to see that happening. (Wailwan)
- Fracking is an issue of concern for our rivers' that we do not like. We want more information and consultation about it in our area. (Wailwan)
- To have cultural flows for bush tucker gardens to be developed and maintained. (Wailwan)
- We don't want anymore taking away from Aboriginal people. We want consultation and to be the decision makers and stop having decisions made for us in direct contravention of Aboriginal lore and culture. (Wailwan)
- An Aboriginal seat at the table on a permanent basis regarding water sharing management is what we would like to see happen now and in the future. (Wailwan)
- Aboriginal people need to have first input into land and water issues and matters. (Wailwan)
- To obtain a seat on the Stakeholders Advisory Panel. (Wailwan)
- An exclusion zone for private ownership of riverbank land is sought by Wailwan Nation members. (Wailwan)
- We would like to see legislation that unused or unwanted water licences should be returned only to government. (Wailwan)
- We would like to see water viewed as a public good not a private commodity. (Wailwan)

- Aboriginal control equals strength in identity. We want to see more control of and over our own lives and water is a significant part of our life story. (Wailwan)
- Implementation of an appropriate filter system to reduce loss of fish into channels. (Wailwan)
- Enforce regulatory deterrents developed to discourage pollution of waterways. (Wailwan)
- Proper enforcement of irrigation cut-off limits. (Wailwan)

### Bigambul

- Management: Bigambul Nation more involved in the management of the water systems and have a clear role in returning the system to a more healthy state. (Bigambul Nations)
- Connection: Aboriginal people return to the rivers and spend more time with community, telling stories and connecting to the landscape as they have always done through time. (Bigambul Nations)
- Story-telling: Changes to the landscapes are illustrated using conceptual diagrams which story-tell the changes to the waterways. (Bigambul Nations)
- Inclusion and Representation (Bigambul Nations)
- Access: Increased access to waterways for connection to culture activities, e.g. gatherings. (Bigambul Nations)

### Kambuwal

- Economic opportunities (timing - now): Jobs created for people to clean up the waters for future generations. (Kambuwal Nation)
- Education (timing - 5 years): Rangers and other users of the waterways, e.g. tourists, are educated in culturally appropriate ways about the significance of sites in the area and of the waterways in general. (Kambuwal Nation)
- Cultural Continuation (timing - 10 years): Kambuwal people are able to access the waterways to maintain their cultural and custodial responsibilities for the preservation of their culture for future generations. (Kambuwal Nation)
- Access (timing - 5 years): The Kambuwal people have improved access to the waterways on their Country so that they can fulfil their custodial responsibilities to maintain and protect their Country and can use sites for cultural purposes. (Kambuwal Nation)
- Recognition and Respect (timing - 5 years): Sites and places renamed to their Aboriginal names. (Kambuwal Nation)
- Connection (timing - 5 years): The Kambuwal people have established respectful and sustainable partnerships with all users, including neighbouring First Nations people, in the management of water. (Kambuwal Nation)

### Kwiambal

- Environmental improvements (timing - 5 years): There is development of a bush regeneration plan and riverbed management plan to reduce weeds and invasive species, and an agreement regarding flow management. There is development of a native species introduction plan with the primary aim of reducing the number and presence of introduced species in the area. (Kwiambal)
- Environment (timing - 10 years): Development of a farming management plan which focusses on controlling and regulating land use to protect the waterways. (Kwiambal)

- Commitment (timing - now): There is a formal commitment to the Kwiambal people that any research and resulting reports, result in appropriate action. (Kwiambal)
- Economic opportunities (timing - 5 years): There is the development of a form of Kwiambal local employment plan which includes elements relating to fishing, licencing and management. Kwiambal people have access to income-generating activities relating to the water and its management. (Kwiambal)
- Education (timing - now): Non-Aboriginal stakeholders and land/water users receive cultural awareness education. (Kwiambal)
- Access to water sites (timing - 5 years): The Kwiambal people have improved access to water sites; roads and pathways to public sites are accessible and maintained and there is an agreement with private property owners on how to access sacred sites. (Kwiambal)
- Acknowledgement and Representation (timing - now): The Kwiambal people are consulted with all action and decisions that impact on the Kwiambal Nation. (Kwiambal)
- Recognition (timing - now): There is recognition by governing bodies of the need to take immediate action and also recognition and respect of the knowledge of the Traditional Owners and the need to include Traditional Owners in all decisions and decision-making processes. (Kwiambal)
- Control over water (timing - 5 years): There is a formal agreement established and the Kwiambal people experience appropriate representation and inclusion in water planning which recognises their unique place as Traditional Owners of that land. (Kwiambal)
- Cultural flow management (timing - 10 years): The Kwiambal people maintain control over dam water releases and the development of a water management plan which formally recognises the Kwiambal Nation as managers of the water. (Kwiambal)

## Ngarabal

- Monitoring and test run off does enter waterways (Ngarabal)
- Increase employment opportunities for Ngarabal people in water management including conservation and monitoring. (Ngarabal)
- Governments to work transparently and co-operation with the Ngarabal Nation (Ngarabal)
- Control over water interests given to the Ngarabal people to support their role as custodians. (Ngarabal)

## Attachment B. Bigambul First Nations Consultation

This report outlines the process and findings of consultation undertaken with the Bigambul Nation for the development of water resource plans (WRPs) in NSW, for accreditation by the Murray–Darling Basin Authority, under requirements of Chapter 10 of the Murray–Darling Basin Plan. It outlines the consultation process and methodology, making recommendations for future consultation with First Nations people. It presents findings on the objectives and outcomes of the Bigambul people for the management of their water-dependent values and uses.

## Attachment C.      Budjiti First Nations Consultation

This report outlines the process and findings of consultation undertaken with the Budjiti Nation for the development of water resource plans (WRPs) in NSW, for accreditation by the Murray–Darling Basin Authority, under requirements of Chapter 10 of the Murray–Darling Basin Plan. It outlines the consultation process and methodology, making recommendations for future consultation with First Nations people. It presents findings on the objectives and outcomes of the Budjiti people for the management of their water-dependent values and uses.

## Attachment D. Euahlayi First Nations Consultation

This report outlines the process and findings of consultation undertaken with the Euahlayi Nation for the development of water resource plans (WRPs) in NSW, for accreditation by the Murray–Darling Basin Authority, under requirements of Chapter 10 of the Murray–Darling Basin Plan. It outlines the consultation process and methodology, making recommendations for future consultation with First Nations people. It presents findings on the objectives and outcomes of the Euahlayi people for the management of their water-dependent values and uses.



## Attachment F. Guwamu (Kooma) First Nations Consultation

This report outlines the process and findings of consultation undertaken with the Guwamu (Kooma) Nation for the development of water resource plans (WRPs) in NSW, for accreditation by the Murray–Darling Basin Authority, under requirements of Chapter 10 of the Murray–Darling Basin Plan. It outlines the consultation process and methodology, making recommendations for future consultation with First Nations people. It presents findings on the objectives and outcomes of the Guwamu (Kooma) people for the management of their water-dependent values and uses.

## Attachment G. Kambuwal First Nations Consultation

This report outlines the process and findings of consultation undertaken with the Kambuwal Nation for the development of water resource plans (WRPs) in NSW, for accreditation by the Murray–Darling Basin Authority, under requirements of Chapter 10 of the Murray–Darling Basin Plan. It outlines the consultation process and methodology, making recommendations for future consultation with First Nations people. It presents findings on the objectives and outcomes of the Kambuwal people for the management of their water-dependent values and uses.

## Attachment H. Kunja First Nations Consultation

This report outlines the process and findings of consultation undertaken with the Kunja Nation for the development of water resource plans (WRPs) in NSW, for accreditation by the Murray–Darling Basin Authority, under requirements of Chapter 10 of the Murray–Darling Basin Plan. It outlines the consultation process and methodology, making recommendations for future consultation with First Nations people. It presents findings on the objectives and outcomes of the Kunja people for the management of their water-dependent values and uses.

## Attachment I. Kwiambal First Nations Consultation

This report outlines the process and findings of consultation undertaken with the Kwiambal Nation for the development of water resource plans (WRPs) in NSW, for accreditation by the Murray–Darling Basin Authority, under requirements of Chapter 10 of the Murray–Darling Basin Plan. It outlines the consultation process and methodology, making recommendations for future consultation with First Nations people. It presents findings on the objectives and outcomes of the Kwiambal people for the management of their water-dependent values and uses.

## Attachment K.      Murrawarri First Nations Consultation

This report outlines the process and findings of consultation undertaken with the Murrawarri Nation for the development of water resource plans (WRPs) in NSW, for accreditation by the Murray–Darling Basin Authority, under requirements of Chapter 10 of the Murray–Darling Basin Plan. It outlines the consultation process and methodology, making recommendations for future consultation with First Nations people. It presents findings on the objectives and outcomes of the Murrawarri people for the management of their water-dependent values and uses.

## Attachment L. Ngarabal First Nations Consultation

This report outlines the process and findings of consultation undertaken with the Ngarabal Nation for the development of water resource plans (WRPs) in NSW, for accreditation by the Murray–Darling Basin Authority, under requirements of Chapter 10 of the Murray–Darling Basin Plan. It outlines the consultation process and methodology, making recommendations for future consultation with First Nations people. It presents findings on the objectives and outcomes of the Ngarabal people for the management of their water-dependent values and uses.

## Attachment M. Ngemba First Nations Consultation

This report outlines the process and findings of consultation undertaken with the Ngemba Nation for the development of water resource plans (WRPs) in NSW, for accreditation by the Murray–Darling Basin Authority, under requirements of Chapter 10 of the Murray–Darling Basin Plan. It outlines the consultation process and methodology, making recommendations for future consultation with First Nations people. It presents findings on the objectives and outcomes of the Ngemba people for the management of their water-dependent values and uses.



## Attachment N.      Wailwan First Nations Consultation

This report outlines the process and findings of consultation undertaken with the Wailwan Nation for the development of water resource plans (WRPs) in NSW, for accreditation by the Murray–Darling Basin Authority, under requirements of Chapter 10 of the Murray–Darling Basin Plan. It outlines the consultation process and methodology, making recommendations for future consultation with First Nations people. It presents findings on the objectives and outcomes of the Wailwan people for the management of their water-dependent values and uses.

## Attachment O. Wiradjuri First Nations Consultation

Volume 1: Lachlan River Valley

Volume 2: Macquarie River Valley

Volume 3: Murrumbidgee River Valley (and Murray River)

These reports outline the process and findings of consultation undertaken with the Wiradjuri Nation for the development of water resource plans (WRPs) in NSW, for accreditation by the Murray–Darling Basin Authority, under requirements of Chapter 10 of the Murray–Darling Basin Plan. They outline the consultation process and methodology, making recommendations for future consultation with First Nations people. They present findings on the objectives and outcomes of the Wiradjuri people for the management of their water-dependent values and uses.