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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 pays 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 Barapa Barapa, Barkandji/Maljangapa, Gomeroi/Kamilaroi/Gamilaroi/Gamilaraay, Maraura, Muthi Muthi, Nari Nari, Ngarabal, Ngiyampaa, Tati Tati, Wadi Wadi, Wemba Wemba, Weki Weki, Wiradjuri and Yorta Yorta Nations hold significant connection to the lands in which the NSW Murray–Darling Basin Porous Rock exists.

The NSW Murray–Darling Basin Porous Rock Water Resource Plan area holds areas of great spiritual, cultural and economic importance to the first nation people and NSW recognises the connection of the water to the people of these nations to the water.

We recognise the intrinsic connection of Traditional Owners to country and acknowledge their contribution to the management of the NSW Murray–Darling Basin Porous Rock Water Resource Plan area's landscapes 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 Department of Planning and Environment is committed to continuing future relationships and building strong partnerships with our First Nations People.

We thank the Elders, representatives of the Barapa Barapa, Barkandji/Maljangapa, Gomeroi/Kamilaroi/Gamilaroi/Gamilaraay, Maraura, Muthi Muthi, Nari Nari, Ngarabal, Ngiyampaa, Tati Tati, Wadi Wadi, Wemba Wemba, Weki Weki, Wiradjuri and Yorta Yorta Nations and the 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 NSW. 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 Murray–Darling Basin (MDB) Porous Rock WRP area in order to further the development of the NSW Murray–Darling Basin Porous Rock WRP and inform changes to the NSW Murray–Darling Basin Porous Rock Water Sharing Plans (WSPs).

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, Department of Planning and Environment – Water Group is working together with agencies including Department of Planning and Environment – Environment and Heritage 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 Murray–Darling Basin Porous Rock WRP Area

The NSW Murray–Darling Basin Porous Rock Water Resource Plan covers groundwater within the porous rock formations of the Kanmantoo and Lachlan Fold Belts. These rocks overlie the NSW Murray–Darling Basin Fractured Rock and are largely overlain by other sediments. The WRP area (Figure 1) includes four sustainable diversion limit (SDL) resource units, the Western Porous Rock, Gunnedah-Oxley Basin, Sydney Basin MDB and Oaklands Basin. The boundaries of these SDL resource units reflect those of the corresponding groundwater sources managed under NSW water sharing plans and consist of 6 geographically separate areas:

1. The Western Porous Rock occurs in the south-western corner of the state extending west from the junction of the Murray and Murrumbidgee Rivers along the NSW-Victorian border, north along the NSW-SA border and then north-east to the junction of the Darling and Paroo Rivers.
2. An isolated area of Western Porous Rock (approximately 4000 km²), to the north east of Ivanhoe
3. The Oaklands Basin, a small area around Jerilderie in the south of the state
4. The Gunnedah-Oxley Basin extending from Goondiwindi in the north, to Dubbo in the south west and near Murrurundi in the south-east.
5. A small area around Cassilis belonging to the Sydney Basin MDB.
6. Another small region of the Sydney Basin MDB extending from Rylstone approximately 50km to the north, east and south.

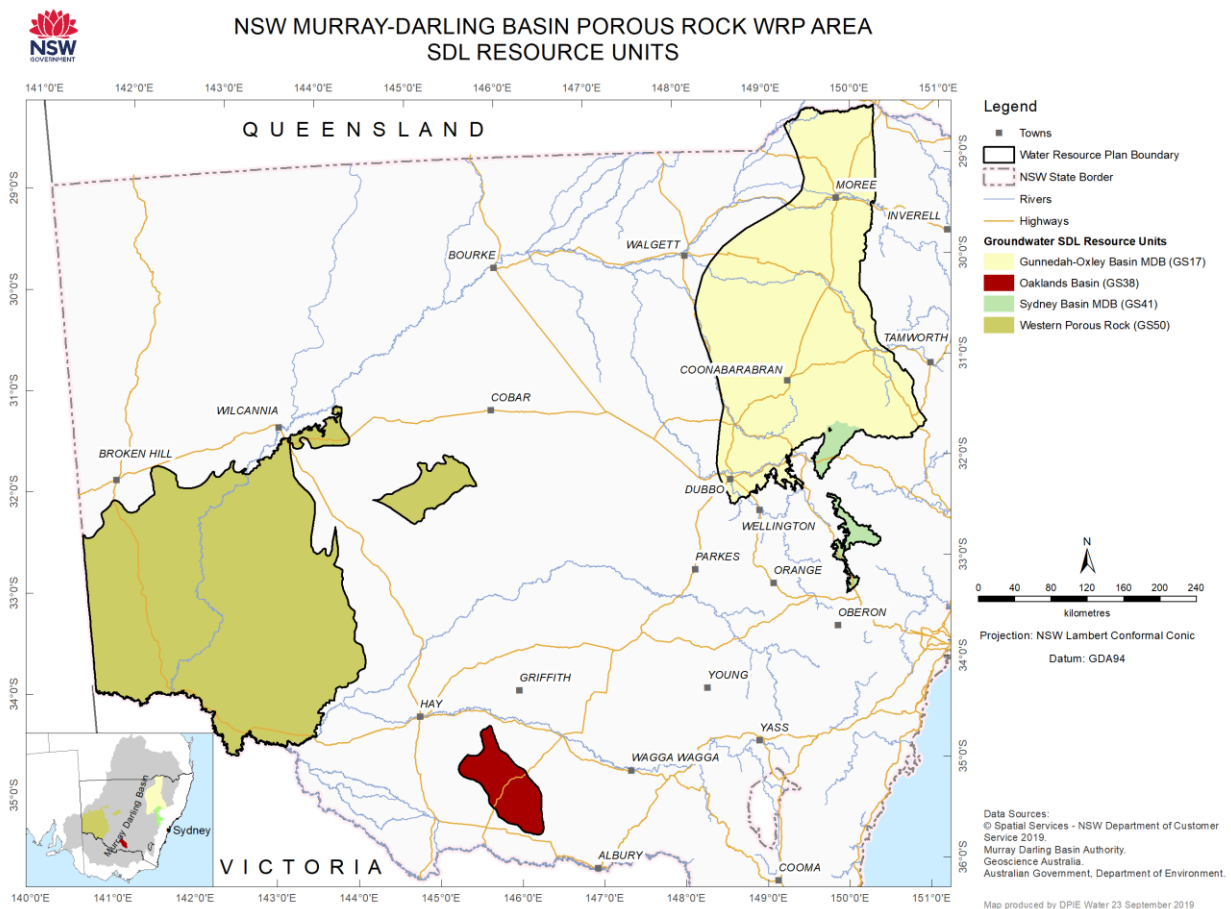


Figure 1. GW6 NSW Murray–Darling Basin Porous Rock Water Resource Plan Area

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 Murray–Darling Basin Porous Rock 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 Murray–Darling Basin Porous Rock 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 on August 2017. This can be viewed at www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water/plans-programs/water-resource-plans/status.

Two public submissions on this paper were received and within these submissions 12 issues were raised. Issues raised in submissions were logged. An Issues Assessment Report was prepared by 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 Murray Darling Basin Porous Rock Groundwater Sources 2020* and draft NSW Murray–Darling Basin Porous Rock WRP were released for public comment on the 22 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 Department of Planning and Environment) communicated with stakeholders in a number of ways:

- 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) received seven submissions on the draft Plan and associated documents, raising twenty-eight 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 MDB Porous Rock water resource plan and water sharing plan.

2.2 Targeted consultation

Targeted consultation has been undertaken for groundwater WRPs through a Groundwater Stakeholder Advisory Panel (SAP) and with First Nations (see section 2.3). The SAP consists of representatives of key stakeholders and government agencies. Their role is 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 (MDBA)
- 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 here (<https://www.water.nsw.gov.au/water-management/water-resource-plans/Groundwater-SAP-terms-of-reference.pdf>). Broadly, they are 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
SAP Meeting 1: - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to the SAP and the Terms of Reference • WRP Process – Road Map • Status and Issues • Resource Descriptions • WRP Evaluation Report • Risk Assessment • The Way Forward 	Sydney, NSW	08 September 2017

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

SAP Meeting (Number & Description)	Location	Date
SAP Meeting 6:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final Lachlan Alluvium Water Resource Plan (WRP) – summary of changes (public exhibition and MDBA assessment feedback) Progress on the Macquarie-Castlereagh, Murrumbidgee and Gwydir Alluvium WRP - summary of changes (public exhibition) Update on progress on the remaining draft Groundwater Water Resource Plans 	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 the Commonwealth Environmental Water Office (CEWO). The first All SAP workshop covered three main topics:

1. NSW Government's response to recent reviews and the departments approach to its responsibilities within the Murray–Darling Basin
2. Key NSW policy issues requiring resolution in order to progress WRP development
3. 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:

1. State-wide planning assumptions
2. The WRP including the Long Term Water Plan (LTWP), Risk Assessment and Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP)
3. MDBA compliance framework
4. Water Renewal Taskforce update
5. First Nation engagement and cultural water
6. Northern Basin Floodplain Harvesting and Northern watering event and Southern Basin SDL Adjustment Mechanism and Pre-requisite Policy Measures
7. Groundwater policy update

2.2.3 Interjurisdictional consultation

The connectivity between the NSW Murray-Darling Basin Porous Rock WRP area and other, adjacent SDL resources units can be found in Risk Assessment for the NSW Murray-Darling Basin Porous Rock (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 Murray-Darling Basin Porous Rock WRP Area (Table 4-14 of Schedule D).

The South Australian Department for Environment and Water (DEWNR), the Queensland Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy (DNRME) and the Victorian Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) had the opportunity to comment on the draft *Water Sharing Plan for the NSW Murray Darling Basin Porous Rock Groundwater Sources 2020* and the draft NSW Murray–Darling Basin Porous Rock 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 Nations consultation

The NSW Murray–Darling Basin Porous Rock WRP area is located within the traditional lands of, and is significant to, the Barapa Barapa, Barkandji/ Maljangapa, Gomeroi/Kamilaroi/Gamilaroi/Gamilaraay, Maraura, Muthi Muthi, Nari Nari, Ngarabal, Ngiyampaa, Tati Tati, Wadi Wadi, Wemba Wemba, Weki Weki, Wiradjuri and Yorta Yorta Nations and Traditional Owners. The department has spent time engaging and consulting Traditional Owners of these people to identify and record objectives and outcomes for Aboriginal spiritual and cultural values and uses of water resources within the NSW Murray–Darling Basin Porous Rock 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 vests 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.

While the Nyeri Nyeri and Taungurung First Nations were identified on the MDBA map 'Traditional Owners for Groundwater Water Resource Plan Areas' as having a geographic coverage extending into NSW WRP areas, discussions with these nations and MLDRIN confirmed that the Nations identified themselves as being wholly within Victoria and they elected not to participate in NSW consultation program for WRPs.

Information relating to the Barkandji/Maljangapa, Gomeroi/Kamilaroi/Gamilaroi/Gamilaraay, Tati Tati and Weki Weki Nations 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.

Consultation with the Tati Tati Nation has not been able to be completed as part of the developing this WRP.

Consultation with the Weki Weki Nation has not been able to be complete as part of developing this WRP. The Weki Weki Nation has expressed their desire to be included in NSW Water Resource Plans. NSW acknowledges that consultation can be onerous for Nations and their delegates. NSW is committed to engage with the Weki Weki Nation in the future and continues to review its consultation model and for water management discussions with First Nations. The Nation was engaged in early discussions with NSW in August 2019 however progression of workshops was not undertaken at the agreement of both parties due to ongoing serious illness. Follow up was undertaken in September 2020 via the MLDRIN delegate to offer a further opportunity for involvement. However, no response was received in regard to this offer. NSW is committed seek engagement with the Weki Weki Nation in the future.

NSW will continue to work with the Gomeroi/Kamilaroi/Gamilaroi/Gamilaraay, Tati Tati, Weki Weki and Barkandji/Maljangapa Nations 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 (TOs). Senior TOs 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 TOs 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.

Nations where interviews have been completed include:

- **Barapa Barapa Nation** - A face to face interview was conducted with one identified Traditional Owner.
- **Barkandji/Maljangapa Nations** - Face to face interviews were conducted with three Traditional Owners representing the Barkandji and Maljangapa Nations.
- **Gomeroi/Kamilaroi/Gamilaroi/Gamilaraay Nation** - Eight Senior Traditional Owners were interviewed. These Senior Traditional Owners represented eight different family groups.
- **Maraura Nation** - Three Senior Traditional Owners representing four different family groups were interviewed and spoke for a broad range of communities and different areas of Maraura Country.
- **Muthi Muthi Nation** - In total, three Traditional Owners representing five different family groups were interviewed and spoke for a broad range of communities and different areas of the Muthi Muthi Country.
- **Nari Nari Nation** - In total, four Senior Traditional Owners representing two different family groups were interviewed and spoke for a broad range of communities and different areas of Nari Nari Country.
- **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.
- **Ngilyampaa Nation** - Eight Senior Traditional Owners were interviewed. They represented 15 different family groups and approximately 1,100 people of the Ngilyampaa Nation.
- **Nyeri Nyeri/Taungurung Nations** – While the Nyeri Nyeri and Taungurung First Nations were identified on the MDBA map ‘Traditional Owners for Groundwater Water Resource Plan Areas’ as having a geographic coverage extending into NSW WRP areas, discussions with these nations and MLDRIN confirmed that the Nations identified themselves as being wholly within Victoria and they elected not to participate in NSW consultation program for WRPs.
- **Wadi Wadi Nation** – In total nine Senior Traditional Owners were interviewed. They represented seven different family groups, over 5,000 different people and spoke for a broad range of communities.
- **Wemba Wemba Nation** – Four Traditional Owners were interviewed. These Traditional Owners and Nation members represented eight different family groups, and spoke for a broad range of communities and different areas of Wemba Wemba Nation Country.
- **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.
- **Yorta Yorta Nation** - Five Traditional Owners were interviewed, representing Yorta Yorta First Nation members.

Nations where interviews were not finalised include:

- **Tati Tati Nation:** Consultation with the Tati Tati Nation has not been able to be completed as part of the development of this WRP.
- **Weki Weki Nation:** Consultation with the Weki Weki Nation has not been able to be completed as part of the development of this WRP.

2.3.2 Workshops

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

- **Barapa Barapa Nation** – One workshop was in May 2019. There was one participant representing nine family groups of the Barapa Barapa Nation.
- **Barkandji/Maljangapa Nations** - Five workshops were conducted with the Barkandji/Maljangapa Nations at Bourke, Wilcannia, Broken Hill, Menindee and Wentworth during June and October 2019. Approximately 30 people attended the workshops.
- **Gomerioi/Kamilaroi/Gamilaroi/Gamilaraay Nation** – Four workshops were held in April 2018. A total of 31 participants, including 30 Gomerioi/Kamilaroi/Gamilaroi/Gamilaraay Traditional Owners attended.
- **Maraura Nation** - One workshop was held in September 2019. A total of five Maraura Traditional Owners attended the workshop.
- **Muthi Muthi Nation** - One workshop was held in February 2019. A total of thirteen participants including eleven Muthi Muthi Traditional Owners attended the workshop.
- **Nari Nari Nation** - One workshop was held in Hay in November 2018. A total of eight participants attended, including three Traditional Owners.
- **Ngarabal Nation** – Two workshops were held in October and November 2019. A total of 12 Ngarabal Traditional Owners attended.
- **Ngiyampaa Nation** - Three workshops were held in July 2018. A total of 17 participants, including 5 Traditional Owners attended the workshops
- **Nyeri Nyeri/Taungurung Nation** – While the Nyeri Nyeri and Taungurung First Nations were identified on the MDBA map ‘Traditional Owners for Groundwater Water Resource Plan Areas’ as having a geographic coverage extending into NSW WRP areas, discussions with these nations and MLDRIN confirmed that the Nations identified themselves as being wholly within Victoria and they elected not to participate in NSW consultation program for WRPS
- **Wadi Wadi Nation** – A twoday workshop was held in October 2018 with approximately 40 participants attending including Wadi Wadi Nation members of all ages
- **Wemba Wemba Nation** – One workshop was held in October 2019. There was a total of eight Aboriginal participants who signed the attendance sheet.
- **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.
- **Yorta Yorta Nation** - A one-day community workshop was held in October 2019.

Nations where workshops were not finalised include:

- **Tati Tati Nation:** Consultation with the Tati Tati Nation has not been able to be completed as part of the development of this WRP.
- **Weki Weki Nation:** Consultation with the Weki Weki Nation has not been able to be completed as part of the development of this WRP.

In instances where workshops are yet to be finalised consideration of First Nation Reports for inclusion in the WRP will be undertaken as soon as possible.

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 partnerships
- 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 as 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
- Tati Tati
- Weki Weki

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 WRPA 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:

- **Barapa Barapa** No organisations specifically listed in First Nation report
- **Barkindji and Maljangapa** Barkandji Maljangapa Native Title Prescribed Body Corporate, Menindee Land Council and Bourke Community Working Party.
- **Gomerioi/Kamilaroi/Gamilaroi/Gamilaraay** Native Title applicants – stakeholder list provided by Native Title Services Corporation
- **Maraura** The River Murray and Mallee Aboriginal Corporation (RMMAC) Gerard Aboriginal Corporation
- **Muthi Muthi** No organisations specifically listed in First Nation report
- **Nari Nari** Hay Local Aboriginal Land Council and Nari Nari Tribal Council
- **Ngarabal** Glen Innes Local Aboriginal Land Council.
- **Ngiyampaa** Murdi Paaki Regional Assembly, Mt Grenfell and Mt Gundabooka committee
- **Wadi Wadi** Environmental Watering Manager - Mallee Catchment Management Authority
- **Wemba Wemba** No organisations specifically listed in First Nation report
- **Wiradjuri** No organisations specifically listed in First Nation report
- **Yorta Yorta** 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 (WRPA).
- 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 Murray–Darling Basin Porous Rock 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 Murray–Darling Basin Porous Rock WRP.

Section	Requirement	Outcome
10.53(1)	That consultation with relevant Indigenous organisations was undertaken, including with the Murray Lower Darling Rivers Indigenous Nations and Northern Basin Aboriginal Nations.	Regular contact occurred with the Executive of MLDRIN and NBAN throughout the planning process. MLDRIN and 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 the <i>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. 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 Murray–Darling Basin Porous Rock 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	<p>NBAN and MLDRIN provided advice on the Nation-based consultation approach undertaken by the department. NBAN and MLDRIN provided contacts for the NBAN and MLDRIN 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.</p> <p>This resulted in the relevant Traditional Owners for the NSW MDB Porous Rock 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.</p>
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	<p>Consultation included what people would want in the future in relation to social, cultural, spiritual and customary objectives and strategies.</p> <p>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.</p>

Section	Requirement	Outcome
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 outline 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 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 Strategy¹. 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 objectives

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

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

sharing plan objectives also align to an extent with First Nations objectives relating to cultural practices associated with water sources. Water sharing 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 Murray Darling Basin Porous Rock 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 proposed 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> <p>(a) to protect the extent and condition of high priority groundwater-dependent ecosystems,</p> <p>(b) to contribute to the prevention of structural damage to aquifers of the groundwater sources resulting from groundwater extraction.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Maintain and increase environmental flows supporting healthy clean productive environs (Barapa Barapa Nation) – Clean safe water for environment and community (Barapa Barapa Nation) – Increase environmental and cultural flow allocation (Barapa Barapa Nation) – Groundwater is managed, restored and protected (Maraura) – More Water for the environment (Maraura) – Clean water for future nations (Muthi Muthi) – Prioritise environment first and allocate more flow to meet environmental needs (Muthi Muthi) – To have a consistent, quality water source (Wemba Wemba) – Higher water levels (Wemba Wemba) – Access to clean and safe water that is not contaminated (Wiradjuri- Lachlan) – Access to healthy water (Wiradjuri- Macquarie) – Access to clean and safe water that is not contaminated (Wiradjuri- Murrumbidgee/Murray)
<p>(3) The strategies for reaching the targeted environmental objectives of this Plan are as follows—</p> <p>(a) reserve all water for the environment in excess of limits to the availability of water,</p> <p>(b) manage extractions under access licences and basic landholder rights within the limits to the availability of water,</p> <p>(c) manage the construction and use of water supply works to minimise impacts on high priority groundwater-dependent ecosystems and groundwater quality.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Maintain and increase environmental flows supporting healthy clean productive environs (Barapa Barapa Nation) – Increase environmental and cultural flow allocation (Barapa Barapa Nation) – Plan water allocation and management on what the environment requires first and make sure you know how much water is in the system and going out of the system (Barapa Barapa Nation) – Adopt an environment first approach with irrigation prioritised after environment to ensure sustainability and quality of MDB system (Muthi Muthi) – Higher water levels. (Wemba Wemba)
<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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Rivers, creeks and bodies of water function together as a flowing system (Ngiyampaa Nation) – To have a consistent, quality water source (Wemba Wemba)

- (5) The performance indicators used to measure the success of the strategies for reaching the targeted environmental objectives in subclause (2) are the changes or 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

- (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 environmental 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.

First Nations economic objectives

- Groundwater is managed, restored and protected (Maraura)
- Use of Water Licences and infrastructure for Economic opportunity (Maraura)
- Government demonstrate due diligence with respect for cultural values and uses, outcomes and objectives in environmental water (Muthi Muthi)
- To achieve social and economic outcomes and well-being for Nari Nari people (Nari Nari)
- Aboriginal water rights and water licences (Wemba Wemba)

- (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.

- Use of Water Licences and infrastructure for Economic opportunity (Maraura)

- (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 allocations assigned,
- (c) the recorded values of groundwater levels.

WSP Aboriginal cultural objectives	First Nations Aboriginal cultural objectives
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (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— <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Manage allocation and maintain waterway linkages to support cultural connection, values and usage (Barapa Barapa Nation) – Recognise Barapa Barapa cultural connection and custodianship within all related water and catchment plans (Barapa Barapa Nation) – – Groundwater is managed, restored and protected (Maraura) – Clean water for future nations (Muthi Muthi) – Prioritise environment first and allocate more flow to meet environmental needs (Muthi Muthi)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (3) The strategies for reaching the targeted Aboriginal cultural objectives of this Plan are as follows— <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Adopt an environment first approach with irrigation prioritised after environment to ensure sustainability and quality of MDB system (Muthi Muthi)

- (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.
- (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	First Nations social and cultural objectives
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> (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— <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Clean water for future nations (Muthi Muthi) – Establish and create healthy people and communities with strong health and wellbeing (Muthi Muthi) – Prioritise environment first and allocate more flow to meet environmental needs (Muthi Muthi) – To achieve social and economic outcomes and well-being for Nari Nari people (Nari Nari) – Water available for domestic use is clean and healthy. (Ngiyampaa Nation) – Greater equity and balance between stakeholders is achieved in water allocations. (Ngiyampaa Nation) – Higher water levels. (Wemba Wemba) – Aboriginal water rights and water licences. (Wemba Wemba) – Access to clean and safe water that is not contaminated (Wiradjuri- Lachlan) – Access to clean and safe water that is not contaminated (Wiradjuri- Murrumbidgee/Murray)

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- (3) The strategies for reaching the targeted social and cultural objectives of this Plan are as follows—
- Higher water levels. (Wemba Wemba)
 - (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 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 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**Barapa Barapa**

- Government buy back a percentage of all water allocation/licences and allocate for environmental and cultural flows (Barapa Barapa Nation)
- Barapa Barapa having greater input into planning, ongoing management and allocation of water (Barapa Barapa Nation)
- Barapa Barapa elders and representatives are engaged in water planning that has an impact on their traditional lands (Barapa Barapa Nation)
- Barapa Barapa are given access to traditional sites and significant areas of cultural practice (Barapa Barapa Nation)
- The Barapa Barapa people are always informed of all water planning and policy decisions that may impact on their traditional lands and values and uses of water (Barapa Barapa Nation)
- Cultural flows allocation confirmed as a separate allocation to Aboriginal people (Barapa Barapa Nation)
- Aboriginal Nations can apply for and secure permits, with costs addressed on the current high and prohibitive costs associated with acquiring licences (Barapa Barapa Nation)
- Allocate a minimum of 10 mega Litres to each Barapa Barapa community member for cultural uses or redirection to environment (outside current allocation for Environment and culture) (Barapa Barapa Nation)
- Formally recognize Barapa Barapa nation and develop information and cultural information to inform the community (Barapa Barapa Nation)
- Establish access arrangement for traditional sites (Barapa Barapa Nation)
- Establish Cultural flows research project for cultural flows plan alongside long-term waterways plan (Barapa Barapa Nation)
- Undertake environmental and cultural flows research for cultural flows plan alongside long-term waterways plan (Barapa Barapa Nation)
- Remove illegal block banks (Barapa Barapa Nation)
- Adapt best practice water-based business model with Barapa Barapa people for economic development (Barapa Barapa Nation)

Maraura

- Maraura Nation actively contribute to the development and implementation of a feral species management plan (Maraura)
- More effective Feral Species Management (Maraura)
- Management of Feral species (Maraura)
- Integrated use of cultural knowledge is applied in all planning and management of water and land (Maraura)
- Consultation: Maraura Nation representatives are actively engaged by leaders of government (decision makers not bureaucrats) to progress recommendations. (Maraura)
- Seasonal Practices are recognised and implemented in the Maraura Nation (Maraura)
- Tourism: Maraura Nation develop cultural tourism activities to share culture and derive increased employment and economic benefit from tourism enterprises. (Maraura)
- Cultural water requirements are recognized, of appropriate volume and delivered (Maraura)
- Representation and Economic Contribution (Maraura)
- Employment: Maraura Nation people have jobs caring for River Country.
- Full implementation of the Community Rangers program. Increased funding and Aboriginal employment and training opportunities through funded programs that cover land sea and inland seas (Maraura)

- Access to traditional lands and water restored (Maraura)
- Re-establishing and Maintaining Access for the Maraura Nation (Maraura)
- Cultural knowledge and responsibility:
- Maraura Nation and First peoples are represented and actively participating on any governance structure relating to water management and planning within our ILUA
- Secured long-term support and resources for Maraura Nation and First Peoples to continuously engage in major roles in water resources management, development and implementation
- Strong voice for Maraura Nation and First Peoples for caring for Country and water resource management
- Maraura Nation and First Peoples to establish and maintain strong and productive relationships and partnerships built on mutual respect and agreement making
- Maraura Nation and First peoples cultural and spiritual knowledge and intellectual property protected and valued in all water resources management and planning
- Reliable, current, inclusive, evaluable and culturally appropriate agreements
- Legal rights and power for First Peoples regarding water rights (Maraura)
- Ceremony and Sacred site/s: Maraura Nation continue traditional practices of ceremony with access to sacred sites.
- Sacred sites are recognised and protected in legislation (Maraura)
- Traditional ownership/custodianship (Maraura)
- Cultural Practice, knowledge and education (Maraura)
- Recognition of Maraura Nations Custodianship, traditional Ceremonial practices and Sacred site/s within Country (Maraura)
- Recognition of the Maraura Nation's traditional custodianship, cultural practice and knowledge (Maraura)
- Demonstrating cultural understanding and competency in partnership with Maraura Nation (Maraura)
- Blue Gum Mallee plantation and Black Box Wattle Projects (Maraura)
- Cultural education: Maraura Nation are part of establishing a Murray Darling Basin Ranger Program linking nature, river and ecosystem protection, recovery and maintenance through cultural knowledge and expertise. (Maraura)

Muthi Muthi

- Muthi Muthi First Nations people conduct independent water testing and monitoring on water quality and allocation (Muthi Muthi)
- A full acknowledgement that everything is connected including water, land management and people (Muthi Muthi)
- Develop a road map to Aboriginal economic development – using purchased water/allocations –water, ecotourism, aquafarm (based on Victorian model) (Muthi Muthi)
- Allocate of Cultural flows, resource, funding and compensation to the Muthi Muthi (Muthi Muthi)
- Establish roles for Muthi Muthi people in protecting and supporting the management and conservation of water and the environment (Muthi Muthi)
- NSW government support Aboriginal communities in on Country water resource assessment and planning (Muthi Muthi)
- Enact clear opportunity for First Nations people to have economic benefit from water allocations (Muthi Muthi)
- Establish access to resources, funding, pumps and economic opportunity for the Muthi Muthi people through water allocation process (Muthi Muthi)
- Create access for TO's and community to access stream banks. (No one should own the riverbanks) (Muthi Muthi)
- Require safe respected access for cultural business and food gathering customs to happen at the river (Muthi Muthi)

- Develop strong collaborations and advisory opportunities for meaningful water management practice which involves Muthi Muthi First Nations people (Muthi Muthi)
- Establish an NSW Aboriginal water strategy supported by evidence-based policy. (Muthi Muthi)
- Ability to share the river stories with current and future generations to maintain cultural customs and continuity (Muthi Muthi)
- Establish and maintain the policy, practice and access that ensures the Muthi Muthi have the ability to share the river stories with current and future generations to maintain cultural customs and continuity (Muthi Muthi)
- Review overseas ownership of water licences with the view to reduce and eliminate percentage of water licenses owned by overseas interests (Muthi Muthi)
- Recognise and celebrate Muthi Muthi cultural custodianship and culture within the catchment (Muthi Muthi)
- Audit, review and restrict the size of the water pumps on the river. Conduct a full audit, investigation and report, with recommendations legislated (Muthi Muthi)
- Preserve the biodiversity on the banks – fence off the land, pump water into troughs and keep hooved animals off the banks - Restrict hooved animal access to riverbanks (Muthi Muthi)
- Implement and complete a scientific study – look at the basin as a whole catchment – calculate allocations based on what is kept back, have to have water for the environment (Muthi Muthi)
- Develop a management system and policy re riverbank protection and limit access to cattle and other practice that damage or disturb (Muthi Muthi)
- Develop an Aboriginal Cultural strategy that includes River Nations' connection (Muthi Muthi)
- Develop a Cultural Water strategy (Muthi Muthi)
- Prioritise human rights over corporate interests (Muthi Muthi)
- Establish interconnected planning process with First Nations representatives (Muthi Muthi)
- Increase cultural competency of government, their agencies, business and communities working with or living along the river (Muthi Muthi)
- NSW needs to develop Aboriginal Water Policy- look at what Victoria are doing, NSW are behind (Muthi Muthi)
- Governments being consistent with all the First Nations people in the Murray Darling Basin (Muthi Muthi)
- It is understood that for Muthi Muthi Water is both SURFACE and GROUNDWATER and the Muthi Muthi objectives and outcomes relate to both elements (Muthi Muthi)
- Establish whole of Basin research plan and restoration project with effective water management strategies embedded in legislation planning and practice (Muthi Muthi)
- Develop on Country Education and Employment opportunities for Muthi Muthi First Nations people. (Muthi Muthi)

Nari Nari

- Nari Nari Nation hold cultural water entitlements. (Nari Nari)
- Nari Nari Nation provides pathways for Nari Nari people, especially youth, to work in water management and caring for country activities. (Nari Nari)
- To be responsible for all gayini (water) that comes on to Nari Nari country (Nari Nari)
- To promote cultural land management (Nari Nari)
- Nari Nari Nation participate in all aspects of water management on Nari Nari country. (Nari Nari)
- To establish and maintain strong and productive relationships (Nari Nari)

Ngarabul

- 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)

Ngiyampaa

- The Ngiyampaa people continue partnerships to use and monitor environmental water. (Ngiyampaa Nation)
- Ngiyampaa people are employed in water management in roles including conservation and monitoring. (Ngiyampaa Nation)
- Ngiyampaa economic interests are encouraged and supported. (Ngiyampaa Nation)
- The Ngiyampaa Nation is compensated for the impact of poor water management on their culture, people and communities. (Ngiyampaa Nation)
- The Ngiyampaa people revive their practice of using waterways for the transfer of knowledge. (Ngiyampaa Nation)
- The Ngiyampaa people continue and revive cultural practices by waterways. (Ngiyampaa Nation)
- Ngiyampaa people regain cultural authority over their waters. (Ngiyampaa Nation)
- The Ngiyampaa people receive cultural flows. (Ngiyampaa Nation)
- The Ngiyampaa people are given control over their water interests to continue their role as custodians. (Ngiyampaa Nation)
- The Ngiyampaa Nation is given its own water allocation. (Ngiyampaa Nation)
- Strong, respectful and effective partnerships are built between the Ngiyampaa Nation and its people and other stakeholders in water planning. (Ngiyampaa Nation)
- Ngiyampaa people are informed clearly and consistently about water policy, planning and practices. (Ngiyampaa Nation)
- The Ngiyampaa Nation has strong, coordinated representation in water planning. (Ngiyampaa Nation)
- The Ngiyampaa people are able to access their culturally important water-dependent sites and areas. (Ngiyampaa Nation)

Wadi Wadi

- Receive funding with MLDRIN support for funding application to AWP and commence AWRP on Wadi Wadi traditional land, to begin culturally appropriate training and implement traditional methods of managing waterways. The ranger will report to the Wadi Wadi Corporation Committee with the committee reporting to the funding body. Observation and diligence is the key with the rangers reporting problems to appropriate authorities as required. (Wadi Wadi)
- Cultural identity, spirituality, connectivity and accessibility to water are all restored and rebalanced through respect for Aboriginal knowledge. Burial sites and sites of historical significance can be monitored and respected. Spirits can rest and not be upset by being disturbed. (Wadi Wadi)
- To have moved forward and have ongoing positive outcomes and decision making by water planners. (Wadi Wadi)
- Signage will be in place and Aboriginal Rangers will be surveying and maintaining and monitoring the rivers in line with the AWRP policies and procedures. (Wadi Wadi)
- Good communication with government and ongoing commitment from government to respect and act on Aboriginal Lore. (Wadi Wadi)

Wemba Wemba

- Effective management of chemical pesticides and poisons run off from farmers into the water table and the surface water. (Wemba Wemba)
- Reduce farming negative impacts on land and water by implementing a one in seven-year rotation cycle for paddocks to naturally regenerate. (Wemba Wemba)
- Restrict private land ownership from encroaching on riverbanks to increase accessibility. (Wemba Wemba)
- Have the mess left behind by logging in the forests cleared. (Wemba Wemba)
- Aboriginal River Rangers employed to manage the river system and land, implemented Nation by Nation and self-governed. (Wemba Wemba)
- Genuine long-term career/employment opportunities for Aboriginal people. (Wemba Wemba)
- Aboriginal water permits. (Wemba Wemba)
- Respect for cultural sites including burial sites. (Wemba Wemba)
- Aboriginal nations ownership, control and/or genuine inclusion in the management of the water and the land. (Wemba Wemba)
- River flows management and input occurring at a regional level. (Wemba Wemba)
- Aboriginal youth connected/re-connected to Country, (land and water). (Wemba Wemba)
- Better management of Werai Forest through Aboriginal ownership (Wemba Wemba)
- Implement a Right of Passage System modelled off the British model and in which an Aboriginal Nation would own a section of the waterway. (Wemba Wemba)
- Ensure that emerging Aboriginal leaders are schooled in government language as currently unless a very specific question is asked, the answers from government representatives are inconclusive and non-committal. (Wemba Wemba)
- Receive genuine feedback, responses and decisions from meetings. (Wemba Wemba)
- We want to know what can be done, not what cannot be done. (Wemba Wemba)
- More Aboriginal people in government and positions of power to make decision. (Wemba Wemba)
- More consultation with Aboriginal people of this nation, to be on par with other regions Aboriginal nations. (Wemba Wemba)
- We want to see a better role in decision making, a vote at the table on decision making, not just a representative seat. We do not want to be on the outside, we need to be seen as a normalised component of the decision-making process. (Wemba Wemba)

Wiradjuri

- Wiradjuri people are employed to manage and monitor the rivers and springs (Wiradjuri- Murrumbidgee/Murray)
- Cultural sites are mapped and recognised (Wiradjuri- Murrumbidgee/Murray)
- Access to culturally important water dependant sites and areas (Wiradjuri- Murrumbidgee/Murray)
- Cultural practices are continued and revived (Wiradjuri- Murrumbidgee/Murray)
- Transfer of knowledge (Wiradjuri- Murrumbidgee/Murray)
- Allocation of cultural flows to Wiradjuri people for cultural practices (Wiradjuri- Murrumbidgee/Murray)
- Wiradjuri people to continue their role as custodians (Wiradjuri- Murrumbidgee/Murray)
- Acknowledgement of Wiradjuri people's custodianship of water is recognised and written into future WRP and policies (Wiradjuri- Murrumbidgee/Murray)
- Illegal activity along the river is monitored and policed (Wiradjuri- Murrumbidgee/Murray)
- Wiradjuri people continue to be engaged and represented in water planning (Wiradjuri- Murrumbidgee/Murray)

-
- Water education and literacy for Wiradjuri people (Wiradjuri- Murrumbidgee/Murray)

Yorta Yorta

- Strategies developed to co-exist with tourism without environmental sacrifice (Yorta Yorta Nation)
 - To have all understand that water is not a commodity (Yorta Yorta Nation)
 - Continuation of the forward momentum of the cultural burns program with VIC and discussion with NSW regarding same (Yorta Yorta Nation)
 - Suitable programs identified and implemented for carp control (Yorta Yorta Nation)
 - To have better management of feral animals where penalties for abandonment of destructive animals are enforced (Yorta Yorta Nation)
 - Development of a draft plan to manage forest(s) (Yorta Yorta Nation)
 - To have ongoing and permanent Care for Country Yorta Yorta Rangers for both NSW & VIC (Yorta Yorta Nation)
 - First Nations people to be respected as sovereign owners of the land with a right to govern themselves (Yorta Yorta Nation)
 - First Nations control or genuine inclusion in the management of the water and the land with a permanent First Nations representative seat at the table (Yorta Yorta Nation)
 - First Nations people to be recognised as equal partners (Yorta Yorta Nation)
 - To see government bodies to work in with Community (Yorta Yorta Nation)
 - To see active versus indolent Water Bodies' action follow up of meetings with monitoring and responses (Yorta Yorta Nation)
 - NSW State Government be more open and amenable to forming working partnerships with Yorta Yorta Nation (Yorta Yorta Nation)
 - Culling of the number of Water Bodies to a manageable and functional number (Yorta Yorta Nation)
 - To recognise that current environmental and cultural flows are a 'band-aid' solution (Yorta Yorta Nation)
 - To see NSW State Government, seek more engagement through dialogue with Traditional Owners rather than through dialogue with Land Councils (Yorta Yorta Nation)
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Attachment A—Barapa Barapa First Nations Consultation

This report outlines the process and findings of consultation undertaken with the Barapa Barapa 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 Barapa Barapa people for the management of their water-dependent values and uses.

Attachment D—Maraura First Nations Consultation

This report outlines the process and findings of consultation undertaken with the Maraura 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 Maraura people for the management of their water-dependent values and uses.

Attachment E—Muthi Muthi First Nations Consultation

This report outlines the process and findings of consultation undertaken with the Muthi Muthi 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 Muthi Muthi people for the management of their water-dependent values and uses.

Attachment F—Nari Nari First Nations Consultation

This report outlines the process and findings of consultation undertaken with the Nari Nari 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 Nari Nari people for the management of their water-dependent values and uses.

Attachment G—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 H—Ngyiampaa First Nations Consultation

This report outlines the process and findings of consultation undertaken with the Ngyiampaa 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 Ngyiampaa people for the management of their water-dependent values and uses.

Attachment I—Nyeri Nyeri and Taungurung First Nations Consultation

While the Nyeri Nyeri and Taungurung First Nations were identified on the MDBA map ‘Traditional Owners for Groundwater Water Resource Plan Areas’ as having a geographic coverage extending into NSW WRP areas, discussions with these nations and MLDRIN confirmed that the Nations identified themselves as being wholly within Victoria and they elected not to participate in NSW consultation program for WRPs.

Attachment K—Wadi Wadi First Nations Consultation

This report outlines the process and findings of consultation undertaken with the Wadi Wadi 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 Wadi Wadi people for the management of their water-dependent values and uses.

Attachment L—Wemba Wemba First Nations Consultation

This report outlines the process and findings of consultation undertaken with the Wemba Wemba 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 Wemba Wemba people for the management of their water-dependent values and uses.

Attachment N—Wiradjuri First Nations Consultation

N1: Lachlan

N2: Macquarie

N3: Murrumbidgee

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.

Attachment O—Yorta Yorta First Nations Consultation

This report outlines the process and findings of consultation undertaken with the Yorta Yorta 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 Yorta Yorta people for the management of their water-dependent values and uses.