

## August 2017 Meeting Communique

The upcoming National Landcare Program 2 was a topic of discussion at the Alliance meeting this month. It was agreed that there were three themes that would not only meet the NLP2 priorities, are important to the Murray River and the community but also could only be delivered by us working together across the Murray River corridor. Three theme concepts will initially be prepared for review and will build on previous project development and leverage the individual partners' programs. The themes are - Transitional landscapes with particular emphasis on sustainable agriculture; Native fish/RAMSAR wetlands/tourism and Threatened species.



The mapping and interactive database of native fish habitat, on-ground works and key gaps across the Murray River corridor is nearing completion. This data will drive priorities and provide everyone a quick picture at a whole of Murray scale. The three native fish projects that emerged out of the Native Fish forum held in Mildura in late April are being finalised and two-page summaries prepared. These have been a terrific collaboration between research specialists and on-ground delivery staff from across the three States. Integrating the latest knowledge with the practical opportunities.

Unfortunately, the 20 Million Trees bid fell down at the last hurdle and will not proceed. A key part of 20 Million Trees is a partnership with a preferred service delivery organisation who do the on-ground works. The selected provider has now decided that they are only interested in supporting one of the sites (in South Australia) and have withdrawn from the other sites. All is not lost - the excellent project focusses on revegetation to benefit the endangered Superb and Regent Parrots along the Murray Corridor and can be integrated into a NLP2 bid.

Consultation with the local indigenous groups is continuing identifying opportunities across the Murray River. A practical project that is emerging is to build in the existing indigenous work teams, expand the numbers where supported and improve the business capability of the participants so there is a stronger pathway to secure employment.

The second meeting was held with the Murray Regional Tourism Board and the enthusiasm to partner on opportunities to create economic outcomes from improving the environment and agriculture food trails continues. As a starting point it was agreed to share resources such as photos and expertise, support distribution of each others environment related events and information and, where appropriate, participating in joint stakeholder meetings.



The meeting finished with the annual review of governance; confirmation of the 2017/18 contribution and agreement to prepare an interim report against the Alliance performance measures.

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