

November 2017 Meeting Communique

The Alliance Executive welcomed Carl Binning (ED Environmental Management Division) and Siobhan Leslie (Regional Engagement Officer Coordinator) from the MDBA to their October meeting to share updates and to explore opportunities to work together. The discussion covered a number of topics with many related to MDBA regional engagement including a communication strategy for environmental water; MDBA regionalisation; the Regional Engagement Officer Pilot; integrated catchment approach and the changing Murray River corridor. In the short term, the MDBA would like the Alliance to be a part of a 3-6 month process to assist in the development of a communications strategy aimed at building community understanding and support for environmental water. In addition, the Regional Engagement Officer pilot is being evaluated and the Alliance has been invited to the workshop in November to review the findings and assist in developing the future approach.

Discussion continues around the National Landcare Program 2 'Regional Land Partnerships' and 'Smart Farms' programs and it appears that it would not be sensible for the Alliance to submit a tender into the Regional Land Partnerships program. Instead the approach is likely to be to insert a paragraph into each of the individual tenders to illustrate the benefits of these linkages. The Alliance has responded to the Community consultation survey to show support for the regional approach whilst looking for support for a landscape scale approach. In addition, the Alliance commented that there appears to be a gap between the objectives around indigenous involvement and the services that the program will support.

However, the Alliance will put in a full proposal to the Smart Farming Partnerships program that builds on the transitional landscape concept and integrates the opportunities identified from the Virtual Fencing pilot. Opportunities for elements to be submitted to the Small Grants program will also be considered.



A communication and investment strategy is underway for the package of three Alliance native fish projects that emerged out of the Native Fish Forum held in April this year. These projects are exciting as they all integrate community perspectives with the latest research and on-ground works. In addition, by taking a whole of Murray perspective they create a real opportunity to secure fish populations into the future.

Finally, the Alliance recently met with Victorian, NSW and South Australian representatives from the Dept. of Prime Minister & Cabinet to discuss the Indigenous program. From the initial feedback, the Indigenous team had reduced the prospectus to a pilot and re-worked it to align with the just released revised Indigenous Advancement Strategy. The meeting provided further feedback from the three States and indicated that although the pilot needs to be trimmed further there was still potential for funding, and strong support for the initiatives flagged.

For further information, please don't hesitate to contact Fiona Johnson, Executive Officer, on 0419 130 719 or Fiona.johnson23@bigpond.com.