

## November Communique

The Alliance has had a very productive time behind the scenes with significant progress made on our key priorities of Native Fish and Indigenous Business Development. In recent times, the Alliance has been able to explore the opportunities to increase the benefits for the Murray River corridor from the National Landcare Program funding.

### Native Fish

The map that forms the Blueprint for native fish priorities for the Murray River corridor is nearing completion. This is supported by a short document – Fish Connections - that describes the critical work that is needed to secure the future for the three distinct native fish groups in the Murray River - flowing-water; large-scale channel and wetland specialists. The Blueprint and 'Fish Connections' have been developed by bringing together the practical on-ground knowledge with the ecological knowledge from researchers. The Alliance hopes to distribute the Blueprint and document by mid-November and looks forward to driving a better future for native fish across the Murray River corridor.



### Indigenous Business Development

The Indigenous Business Development project has been very active with engagement across the Murray corridor and the holding of two Indigenous business workshops that attracted participants, business partners and mentors from across Australia.

The core Indigenous work, with support from Indigenous Business Australia, initially aims to provide intensive support to the 6 Aboriginal-led land-based enterprises that were identified following the two indigenous business workshops with a further 15 in the pipeline.



An interim Aboriginal leadership East West Alliance group has also been established (*Terms of Reference being assisted by Allens Lawyers*) to advocate and promote for Aboriginal landholder's business interests. Two business opportunities have already been identified



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for the cooperative, with buyers in place. Those participating will be required to sign an EOI with post-discussions forming the basis of a Collaboration Agreement. In addition, the Alliance partners are growing Indigenous employment by sharing their knowledge and approaches to develop the regional networks of government bodies and employment agencies.

### National Landcare Program

A number of opportunities to collaborate and coordinate across the Murray River corridor have emerged now that discussions can be held between the partners on the National Landcare projects.

Threatened species projects including Plains Wanderer; Mallee Fowl; Mount Pygmy possum and Regent Honey Eater cover one or more of the partners' regions and create the opportunity to create sustainable landscape change.

Many of the contracted delivery partners will also work across the Murray corridor and there are opportunities for aligned management. In addition, all partners have a project that aims to support improved land management to build business and natural resource resilience in response to the variability in climate.



For further information, please don't hesitate to contact Fiona Johnson, Executive Officer, on 0419 130 719 or [fiona.johnson23@bigpond.com](mailto:fiona.johnson23@bigpond.com).



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