

Table 1: Projects currently being scoped by the Alliance

| Theme | Description |
|---|---|
| Growing the economy | |
| Investment in irrigation | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Create a one-stop-shop to promote understanding of the different state requirements and fast track approvals associated with investment in irrigation farms across boundaries. 2. Link infrastructure works and market opportunities, to grow exports, small business and jobs. 3. Implement a market-responsive farm-water-use efficiency program prioritising integration with irrigation modernisation and rationalisation, and proximity to established drainage and groundwater infrastructure. |
| Adapting farming systems to climate variability and climate change | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Utilise the knowledge from the range of profitable and productive farming systems across the Alliance to showcase options for farmers. 2. Support farming systems and associated communities adapt to climate change. |
| Visitor experience packages | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Create linked 'experience packages' based on our natural attractions and sustainable agriculture to attract both national and international visitors through partnership with tourism operators, Traditional Owners and regional development organisations. 2. Support the creation of 'experience packages' by targeting environmental and infrastructure works to provide the base for medium to large scale tourism investors. |
| Securing the environment | |
| Icon species and sites | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Deliver programs that integrate existing works with environmental and cultural flows, re-vegetation works, pest species control, floodplain and in-river infrastructure, and employment programs. 2. Identify and invest in priority icon species and sites with the Traditional Owners, recreational users such as angler groups, tourism operators and the broader community. 3. Implement a coordinated pest and weed control programs along and across the Murray Corridor. 4. Integrate Green Army and 20 Million tree proposals, works and administrative processes. |
| Motivating and inspiring the community | |
| Capability and engagement | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Coordinate and support community members to participate in leadership programs tied to structured natural resource leadership activities at a whole-of-Murray-Corridor level. 2. Grow Traditional Owner's involvement in natural resource management and businesses linked to land and water. 3. Partner with employment organisations and education institutions to support individuals involved in natural resource management and agriculture to complete ongoing professional development. 4. Create a governance structure that aids the sharing of expertise across the Murray Corridor, such as mentoring and secondments between private and public organisations and universities. 5. Develop an integrated monitoring program to support future evidence-based decision-making. 6. Coordinate the communication of outcomes along and across the Murray to increase community education, awareness and support. |

Tri-State Murray NRM Regional Alliance

Growing the economy, securing the environment and motivating the community

The Murray NRM Alliance is working with communities along the River Murray Corridor to grow the economy, secure the environment and motivate and inspire the community.

In its first year of operation, the Alliance will establish a \$12.5 million Green Army project focussed on protecting endangered species. This work will involve up to 60 teams from the community over the following few years. Within 2-3 years, the Alliance is targeting \$170 million of integrated land and water management activities along the Murray corridor. The Alliance seeks funding partners to support delivery of their shared vision for the region.



Local Land Services
Murray



Government of South Australia
South Australian Murray-Darling Basin
Natural Resources Management Board

The opportunity

The River Murray corridor is one of the most naturally and agriculturally productive regions in Australia. Not only does it support jobs and the social and environmental values of people living in the region, it is also positioned to capitalise on the growing demand for food and fibre products from the burgeoning middle class of the Asia Pacific.

Enabling the Murray Corridor to fully capitalise on these emerging opportunities requires (a) effectively engaging with river communities and businesses in a way that embraces and builds on their local knowledge and capacity, and (b) delivering projects in a coordinated way across the Murray to achieve the greatest cost efficiencies, learnings and outcomes.

The Tri-State Murray NRM Regional Alliance (Murray NRM Alliance) brings together six NRM bodies from the River Murray corridor, with demonstrated experience in the delivery of major projects. The Murray NRM Alliance provides a proven way to engage with river communities and businesses through a model that can achieve cost-effective and coordinated Murray-wide social, economic and environmental outcomes.

The vision of the Alliance, which is to achieve landscape scale change by achieving real land and water outcomes through working cooperatively with the community, aligns with those of key initiatives such as the Green Army, 20 Million Trees program and Murray-Darling Basin Plan reforms.

The way forward

The Murray NRM Alliance has developed a series of initiatives to be delivered over the coming five years that will grow our region's economy, secure the environment and motivate and inspire our community.

The scope of works and indicative budgets are as follows:

In the coming 12 months

The Alliance is working together to develop a coordinated Green Army/20 Million Trees Program bid valued at \$12.5 million that will focus on endangered species and utilise up to 60 community based teams each year.

Within 2-3 years

The Alliance is targeting \$170 million of integrated land and water management activities along the Murray corridor, including:

- \$5 million feral cats eradication program supported and delivered by the community.
- \$150 million program that integrates the water and land to create corridors that ensure the future of endangered fish, plants and animals.
- \$15 million to establish monitoring at the whole-of-Murray scale that informs a strategic adaptive management cycle and enables progress to be communicated and celebrated, together with higher levels of accountability for investors.
- Assisting the private sector navigate across the three State's different requirements and structures, creating confidence and reducing red tape.

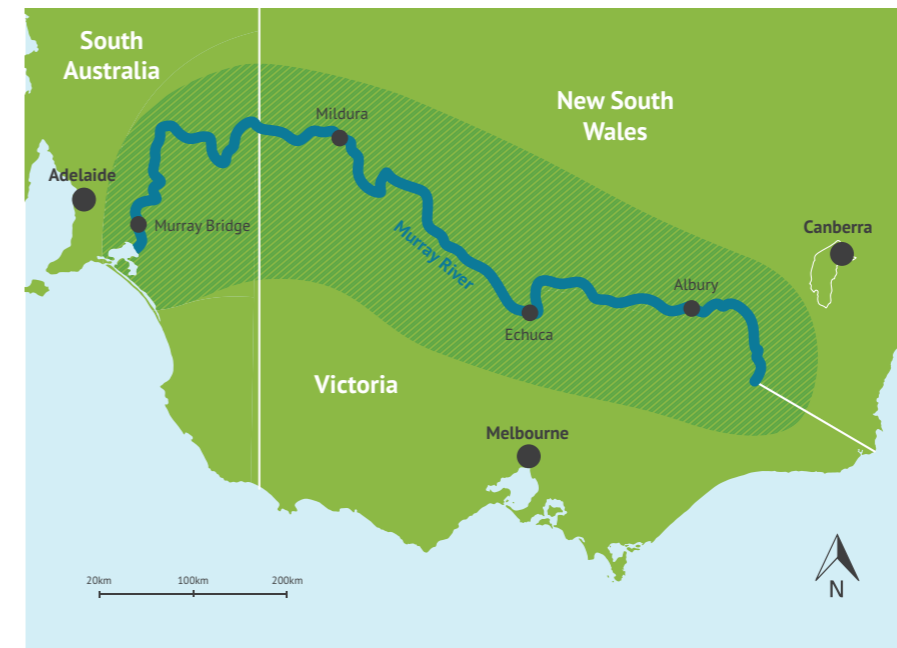
Within 4-5 years

The Alliance will begin a further major works initiative, focusing on:

- \$100 million to link infrastructure works supporting investment in large scale farms across the three States to grow exports, small business and jobs.
- \$20 million for environmental works that support the creation of bird-watching packages that attract national and international visitors to the Murray.

A brief description of the full 17 projects currently being scoped by the Alliance is provided in Table 1.

About the Alliance



The Alliance was created because of the recognition that regional NRM bodies working in isolation from one another do not always provide the best and most cost effective social, economic and environmental outcomes. This is especially the case on rivers where catchment-wide coordinated project delivery of major projects is critical.

The Alliance consists of six regional NRM bodies: the North East, Goulburn Broken, North Central and Mallee Catchment Management Authorities in Victoria, plus the NSW Murray Local Land Services and the South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board. The Alliance was formalised by the signing of the Tri-State Murray NRM Regional Alliance MOU in 2015.

Members have legislative responsibilities to manage the natural resources of the Murray corridor based on community endorsed, regional natural resource plans.

Alliance members have a proven track record of working together. Past and current collaborations between the members is a demonstration of the real benefits of increasing impact, capturing efficiencies, sharing capability and enhancing data collection to evaluate performance.

Examples of projects that Alliance member NRM bodies have been involved with or led include the:

- \$200 million Farm Water Program delivering on-farm irrigation efficiencies, which won the 2015 Australian Water Association National Program Innovation Award;
- \$500 million Living Murray Program, including the \$32m award-winning Hattah Lakes project; and
- Northern Eco-Connections project which supports landholders to improve and protect native vegetation on private land.

