

## July 2019 Communique

There has been a lot happening across the Alliance and this Communique will focus on providing an update from each of the programs.

### Native Fish Program

The Native Fish 'blueprint' and supporting document 'Fish Connections' was formally launched by Phil Duncan (Gomeroi man, MDBA Community Advisory Council Member and Australian representative for 'World Fish Migration Day') at the recent Alliance 'Wetland Specialists Forum'.

Implementation of the blueprint has been significantly accelerated with \$4.5m being provided by the Victorian Environmental Water Holder to address a significant barrier to fish movement at Koondrook. One down – three to go.

Tri-State Murray NRM  
Regional Alliance  
Murray Corridor  
Fish Connections



The 'Wetland Specialist Forum' was attended by over 35 research, program delivery and community members who shared the latest on-ground and research information. The Forum considered a review of the status of Wetland specialists and have focussed on the 'Magnificent Six' as the most at-risk species across the Murray River Corridor. The 'Magnificent Six' are - Murray Hardyhead, Flat Headed Galaxias, Olive Perchlet, Purple Spotted Gudgeon, Southern Pygmy Perch and Yarra Pygmy Perch. The other key outcomes that the Forum achieved were the review of the 'Wetland species' work program leading to it being revised and critically, the further cementing of the working relationships between the participants under the shared objectives.



If you would like a copy of 'Fish Connections' please contact Brad Drust, CEO NCCMA, on [brad.drust@NCCMA.vic.gov.au](mailto:brad.drust@NCCMA.vic.gov.au).

### Indigenous Program

The Indigenous Program continues to grow and consolidate with a number of key milestones being achieved.



The East-West Alliance (led by Outback Academy) was formally created with the signing of a 'Statement of Intent' at a May Gathering of the Aboriginal groups from Western Australia and along the Murray River Corridor with the Tri-State Murray Alliance, the commercial partners, universities and Western Australian Department of Primary Industries (WA DPI).

At its core, the East-West Alliance (EWA) aims to improve socioeconomic and natural resource outcomes for Aboriginal people through ethical, cooperative, sustainable, innovative and culturally appropriate land-based business enterprises.

The first group of participating Aboriginal business enterprises have now signed an MOU committing them to both individual business and collective objectives. The Tri-State Murray Alliance have developed the customised 'Initial Property Checklist' for each of the businesses and are progressing with the on-going farm planning service. We have already seen great benefits from being able to draw on the years of experience in our Western Australian partners (Noongar Land Enterprise Group and WA DPI) and drawing it together with the work across the Tri-State Murray Alliance partners.

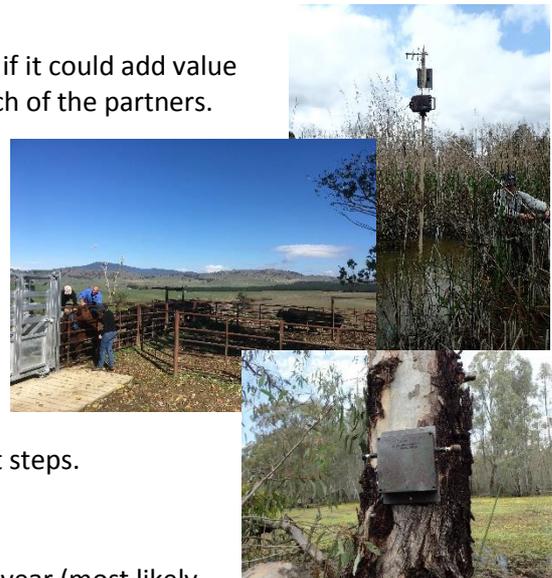


Building on the existing funding from Indigenous Business Australia and the in-kind contributions, the Outback Academy are leading the preparation of a Prospectus to support the development of the Aboriginal businesses and the collective Fairtrade governance framework.

## Land Resilience Program

In the last Communique we raised how the Alliance was exploring if it could add value to the existing dry conditions initiatives being implemented by each of the partners.

One opportunity has emerged that matches both private and public land managers' priorities in dry times. This is the use of remote technologies to reduce the cost of monitoring and managing factors such as stock, soil cover, biodiversity health and pest animals. There is a lot of interest and opportunities to learn from and connect the many examples of where technology is being used across the Murray River Corridor. As an initial step, an Alliance Project Officer will bring together and prioritise existing work and practices; identify any potential links with the Alliance indigenous and native fish initiatives, and outline the next steps.



## Off to Canberra

The Alliance Executive are planning a visit to Canberra later in the year (most likely September) to share our directions and we look forward to catching up with some of you in person.

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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