



Profitable, sustainable agriculture

Agriculture across the Murray River Corridor adds more than \$7 billion to the economy and underpins the prosperity of the 800,000-plus people who live in the region. With a high percentage of the land covered by agriculture, the sector is also critical to the management of natural resources and many threatened species and ecological communities.

The Murray River Corridor is facing significant shifts in industries, relevant capabilities, ecosystems and sustainable and viable future adaptation options. The significant pressures from a changing climate, irrigation footprint, invasive species, population growth, recreational activities and community expectations mean community resources are stretched with some groups having difficulty participating in the planning process and changing on-farm practices.

To support the agricultural industries to produce food and fibre profitably and improve water and soil resource management, the Alliance partners work with farmers and farmer organisations along the Murray River corridor.

Over the past 12 months the Alliance and its partners have:

- Involved 8,562 farmers and farm advisers in 272 land management field days and training courses.
- Developed a package of Regenerative Agriculture training courses, demonstration sites, an Adoption Framework with an additional 22,436 ha now managed for sustainability.
- Established 19 demonstration soil management sites and distributed 186 information publications.
- Embedded climate change adaptation across the programs, launched a climate change website, run awareness events and explored options for carbon-offset projects.
- Delivered initiatives in partnership with 37 different service providers from across the private sector, local government, NGOs and community groups.

Regenerative agriculture and soils

Regenerative agriculture manages the complexity of integrating livestock production with pasture growth and recovery whilst building the soil resource base, lowering costs of production, and linking rainfall and growing events. This decreases seasonal risk by supporting production and profit to suit climate variation.

Regenerative Agriculture initiatives are occurring across the length of the Murray River Corridor with demonstration and trial sites covering the range of grazing industries and climatic conditions. The baseline skills, knowledge surveys and an Adoption Framework allow for the project partners to learn from each other and continuously improve.

Climate change

Climate change is a significant issue for Murray River Corridor landholders. The Bureau of Meteorology predicts there will be more time in drought, more extreme events and a decline in median rainfall. Climate change and adaptation is being embedded in all programs across the Alliance along with specific awareness events and the development of resources such as a climate change website. The range of programs allows partners to incorporate lessons from more specialist projects, such as carbon offset options and alternative business models.

New technology

The Alliance is building on the results from the on-ground trialling of remote technology options to manage stock and natural resources across a range of climatic and site conditions. The Alliance continues to use the jurisdictional differences to enable further testing of virtual fencing to control stock and protect natural assets. This builds the experience and evidence for the viability of the technology and for potential use at a wider scale.

Aboriginal land-based enterprises

As part of the Aboriginal-led East-West Alliance, the Tri-State Murray Alliance has developed a customised land and water technical assessment tool that builds on the best approaches from across the partners. This is being used with Aboriginal land managers to assess the options for their land whilst linking them into existing skill-building activities and resources.

Pest animals

Legislative requirements differ between states in regard to some pest animals. As farmer concerns grow over the impact of feral deer on pastures and infrastructure, the Alliance has been able to learn about the pros and cons of different management practices in each jurisdiction. For example, where jurisdictional requirements allow or as legislation changes, deer management guidelines and engagement approaches can be used and/or customised to local conditions.

The Tri-State Murray NRM Regional Alliance brings together the seven natural resource bodies from New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia along the full length of the Murray River Corridor.

The Alliance was formed in 2015 from a shared recognition that where there were opportunities to work together, they could deliver better and more cost effective social, economic and environmental results. This is especially the case for rivers where catchment and community-wide coordinated action across land and water is critical to achieve landscape change.

Collectively the members of the Alliance have strong connections with their local communities and have a proven track record of working together.

Current and previous collaborations have demonstrated the real opportunities for the Alliance to **'Grow the Economy, Secure the Environment and Motivate the Community'** along the Murray River Corridor.