



Who is the Tri-State Murray Alliance?

Growing the Economy. Securing the Environment. Motivating the Community.

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 River Murray Corridor.

The Alliance was formed in 2015 recognising 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 and adjacent landscapes where catchment and community-wide coordinated action across land and water is critical to achieve landscape change.

The Alliance Steering Committee of the CEOs oversee all activities based on the agreed Charter and Governance principles avoiding the need to establish a separate Alliance administrative entity.



The challenges

The iconic Murray River, its corridor, species and people are in a condition that can't be ignored.

- The size of the challenge means that the support and participation of the community is critical. This support can be difficult to maintain as resources are stretched, the improvements are slow to emerge, tough to sustain and certain issues are resulting in significant individual or community concern.
- Water alone will not restore water dependent ecosystems and ensure the various obligations and community expectations are achieved. Appropriate ongoing complementary and coordinated activities, supported by local communities, are required at the site and system scale.
- Fragmented short-term program funding and jurisdictional boundaries drive isolated and uncoordinated works that will not achieve the environmental values, species protection, sustainable agriculture, viable industries, cultural outcomes and recreational experiences that the Australian and international communities expect.
- Traditional Owners may have access to land and water but are often limited by their access to finances, employment and business capabilities. This results in many Traditional Owners struggling to remain connected to Country and culture and increases the risk of losing more than 20,000 years of cultural and ecological knowledge.

Why the Alliance?

- Proven track record in working together and delivering coordinated infrastructure and habitat projects across three States and the length of the Murray River.
- Proven track record of connecting and delivering with regional communities; industry; private, government and not-for-profit service providers; research; and Traditional Owner groups.
- Operates at the scale relevant to the species needing recovery; to identify sustainable solutions for industry; attracting private sector partners; and connecting to Aboriginal people and the broader community.
- Works are prioritised, coordinated and communicated so that projects deliver the best 'bang for buck'.
- The significant capability and best practice approaches are shared quickly allowing for adaptive management and improved natural resource management across dryland and irrigated agriculture; biodiversity issues and climate and natural environments.

The Alliance footprint:

- Covers 21.2 million hectares
- Contributes 50% of water in the Murray-Darling system
- Home to 800,000 people
- 500 national and state recognised threatened species
- 10 internationally recognised sites
- Supports \$7.2 billion in agricultural output

The programs

The Alliance has four key programs:

- 1. Fish Connections** – Collaboration between science, on-ground expertise and the community have identified and described the critical complementary works needed to secure the future for the three key native fish groups – fast flow, channel and wetland specialists. Implementation is underway and progress towards the targets achieved. The Alliance and partners continue to advocate for resources to be directed to address each of the critical works and to share the latest knowledge through native fish forums.
- 2. Aboriginal Economic Independence** – The Alliance provides farm planning, natural resource and agricultural assistance to emerging Aboriginal businesses and for groups to care for Country as one of the partners in the Aboriginal-led East-West Alliance. The East-West Alliance uses a co-operative Fairtrade model to link Aboriginal groups, NRM agencies and private sector partners to build businesses, improve the Country's sustainability and social and cultural links, and community resilience.
- 3. Land Resilience** – This work focusses on the emerging technologies that can reduce the cost for farmers and public land managers of monitoring and managing their natural resources while adapting to the changing climate.
- 4. Co-ordination and collaboration** – This program focusses on capturing the broader opportunities by sharing expertise, processes and programs; coordinating works and media campaigns and collaborating to build the capability of the community and service provider partners.