

February 2017 Meeting Communique

The Tri-State Murray Alliance Steering Committee welcomed *Mike Williams* as the new Regional Director SA M-DB. Mike brings a wealth of NRM experience and replaces Rhona Parker-Benton who is moving to work on major projects within the South Australian Dep. Environment Water & Natural Resources.

The Steering Committee *reviewed the performance of the Alliance during 2016* to ensure it remains focussed and continues to improve. The session came up with three key areas to improve –

Review of
Alliance
performance
across 2016.

- Be realistic about what can be achieved and what staff and stakeholders are already managing.
- Build trust in the ability of the Alliance to deliver and as a viable investment option.
- Assist stakeholders, partners and government to engage with the Alliance and to understand what it is trying to achieve.

Considering the review findings, the Steering committee updated the Performance Measures and narrowed the themes down to the following strategic priorities –

- Growing the Economy – eco-tourism/innovative agriculture.
- Securing the Environment – water ecosystems.
- Motivating the Community – indigenous economic independence.

The lower priority areas are being put on the backburner so the effort can be more targeted in 2017. In addition, targeted staff workshops will be held as appropriate in place of the whole staff workshops that were held on 2015 & 2016. However, there is an aim to hold a strategic Chairs & CEOs workshop and stakeholder meetings again in 2017 aligned to existing forum as much as possible.

Whole of Murray
River corridor
communication
started.

It was pleasing to have received such good feedback on the four *Murray Alliance Case studies* (Profitable, sustainable agriculture; Rebuilding habitat: supporting recreational fishing; Building community involvement in NRM programs; Supporting indigenous employment). It really is impressive when you see what is being achieved across the Murray River corridor. In addition, as part of the efforts to have whole of *Murray River Corridor communication*, the Tri-State Murray

Alliance keeps providing input into MDBA visits to the corridor and into the new MDBA Engagement Pilot. The Alliance is encouraging the MDBA to link into the existing extensive networks that the members have across the Murray River corridor.

To progress the Alliance activities three *part-time project officers* are being appointed. Peter Rose (NC CMA) is already in place for the Securing the Environment theme with project officers soon to be appointed for the Growing the Economy and Indigenous themes.

Project Officers
to commence
work soon.



The 'Securing the Environment' theme is close to having Murray-wide information and maps on native fish related activities so that priority works can be identified for the Murray River. To translate this into priority programs, the Alliance will be hosting a Fish Forum in Mildura in late April that will involve the Alliance members and other relevant organisations. Finally, in the fish space, discussions are being held with Matt Barwick to involve the Alliance more closely in the design of 'Carpageddon' so the regional communities are not left behind.

Native fish
forum to
identify
priorities

With the announcement on the *20 Million Trees* next funding round expected soon, a working group has been exploring the feasibility of a joint endangered birds 20 Million Trees proposal including running a selection process for a suitable service provider.

Traditional Owner
engagement

Conversations are continuing with the *Traditional Owners* about their priorities across the corridor with presentations to MLDRIN late in 2016 and visits to South Australia including presentations to the First Nations forum in the first half of 2017.

Next Meeting is planned for Friday 31st March 2017.

For further information, please don't hesitate to contact Fiona Johnson, Executive Officer, on 0419 130 719 or Fiona.johnson23@bigpond.com.