
Water Resource Planning (Murray-Darling Basin Plan)
Statement of Commitment

between the

Ngarrindjeri Regional Authority Incorporated

and the

Department of Environment, Water and Natural
Resources

South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural
Resources Management Board

South East Natural Resources Management Board

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Prepared jointly by:

The Water Resource Plan Statement of Commitment (WRP SOC) Working Group consisting of members from:

- Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources
- Ngarrindjeri Regional Authority

Dedication

This Statement of Commitment is dedicated to all Ngarrindjeri Past, Present and Future.

Their respect for all living things within their Lands and Waters guides the development of this Statement of Commitment.

May their Spirits find rest and peace within their Lands and Waters.

This Statement of Commitment aims to respect Ngarrindjeri traditions, and rights and responsibilities according to Ngarrindjeri laws.

Parties

The Parties to this Statement of Commitment are the:

- Ngarrindjeri Regional Authority Incorporated (NRA)
- Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources(DEWNR)
- South Australian Murray Darling Basin Natural Resources Management (SAMDB NRM) Board
- South East Natural Resources Management (SE NRM) Board

Statement of Commitment

The Parties intend this Statement of Commitment (SOC) to form part of the description of the consultation undertaken in relation to the preparation of water resource plans pursuant to section 10.07 of the Murray-Darling Basin Authority Basin Plan 2012 (Basin Plan) made under the *Water Act 2007* (Cth). The SOC commences on the date of signing by all Parties and will continue for the duration of the development and implementation of the relevant water resource plans or until the Parties agree to terminate the SOC or prepare another document that replaces this SOC or any Party notifies the other parties in writing that they wish to terminate the SOC. The Parties intend that a review of the document will occur two years from the date of signing.

Nothing in this SOC creates any legal right, liability or obligation with respect to DEWNR, SAMDB NRM Board, SE NRM Board, the NRA, the Minister for Water and the River Murray and the Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation and the Crown in the right of South Australia (including, without limitation, any right, liability or obligation arising from common law, equity, contract, statute, misrepresentation, estoppel or legitimate expectation). The preceding clause forms a part of the terms of this SOC.

Signed for and on behalf of the Parties.

Ngarrindjeri Regional Authority Incorporated



Tim Hartman, Chair, Ngarrindjeri Regional Authority 31/7/2015

Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources



Sandy Pitcher, Chief Executive, DEWNR 31/7/2015

South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board



Sharon Starick, Presiding Member 31/7/2015

South East Natural Resources Management Board



for Frank Brennan, Presiding Member 31/7/2015

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Guiding Statement

Ngarrindjeri have a unique philosophy regarding the connectivity of Ruwe/Ruwar (country/body/spirit). Ngarrindjeri Ruwe/Ruwar frames Ngarrindjeri rights and responsibilities as traditional owners and is centred on an understanding that all things are connected. As such, Ngarrindjeri view cultural heritage and natural resource management as inseparable.

The Parties acknowledge that the words 'traditional' and 'tradition' within this SOC relate to recognition of the lore, customs, culture, heritage and spiritual interests of the Ngarrindjeri People. 'Traditional' and/or 'tradition', as used throughout this SOC are not used in the same sense as in s. 223(1)(a) of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth).

Ngarrindjeri peoples have a long-term aspiration to be centrally involved in the development, planning and implementation of natural resources and cultural heritage management in their traditional lands and waters. These aspirations are acknowledged by the South Australian Government through the *Kungun Ngarrindjeri Yunnan Agreement 2009* (KNYA). These aspirations are also aligned with the State's responsibilities under the Basin Plan to identify both the objectives of Indigenous peoples in relation to managing the water resources within a water resource plan area and the outcomes for the management of the water resources within a water resource plan area that are desired by the relevant Indigenous peoples.

The Parties acknowledge that Ngarrindjeri hold a depth of Cultural Knowledge and understanding of their traditional lands and waters and that Ngarrindjeri custodianship has shaped the regions' ecological character over thousands of years. The Parties acknowledge the importance of collaboration for the effective development and implementation of the water resource plans within South Australia and the State and regional plans, strategies and policies linked to the water resource plans. The Ngarrindjeri Regional Authority (NRA), a peak body within the Ngarrindjeri community, has been formed for the purpose of coordinating activities and resources of the Ngarrindjeri community and high level interactions with the State. This SOC establishes an equitable framework to support appropriate engagement with NRA in the development and implementation of water resource plans within Ngarrindjeri traditional lands and waters in South Australia.

This agreement does not alter or negatively impact current agreements between the Ngarrindjeri and the Minister for Water and the River Murray, the Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation, DEWNR, the SA MDB NRM Board and/or the SE NRM Board.

This agreement does not alter, supersede or negatively impact upon other Indigenous groups and their input into the management and use of the water resources within a water resource plan area.

Purpose

The SOC sets out the intentions of DEWNR, SE NRM Board, SAMDB NRM Board and the NRA in regard to Ngarrindjeri involvement in the development and implementation of water resource plans, and linked water planning and management activities within South Australia. The SOC intends to support the identification of NRA objectives and desired outcomes, while having regard to Indigenous values and uses with respect to the management of water resources within a water resource plan area as per the Basin Plan Chapter 10, Part 14. This approach aims to better acknowledge and value the Ngarrindjeri while respecting their traditional ownership and customary rights and responsibilities to care for country. This process is an important outcome of the KNYA and recognises Ngarrindjeri customary interests in water.

The SOC outlines a number of principles, outcomes, and activities that the Parties intend to utilise to support the participation of Ngarrindjeri in the development of water resource plans in their traditional lands and waters in South Australia. The document establishes mutual intentions for the initial development and implementation period of water resource plans. The Parties also intend to pursue outcomes that support a consistent and coordinated approach to Ngarrindjeri engagement in water planning across water resource plan areas within Ngarrindjeri traditional lands and waters and linked water planning and management activities.

The SOC does not commit funding from or to any of the Parties. The Parties intend to collaborate on identifying future funding sources to support the work outlined in the SOC.

Outcomes and progress of SOC implementation will be reported to all Parties and to the Murray-Darling Basin Authority as part of reporting on Basin Plan requirements.

The SOC aims to build upon existing relationships and engagement activities between the Parties in relation to water resource management. The Parties do not intend that existing working relationships between the Parties will be negatively affected by this SOC, but such relationships are expected to be enhanced by involving NRA in the development of water resource plans. The Parties agree to continued commitment of best practice procedures and the outcomes from this SOC.

Ngarrindjeri objectives and desired outcomes for the management of the water resources within and connected to Ngarrindjeri traditional lands and waters that are based upon social, spiritual and cultural values and uses of the water resource plan area are intended to inform the development and implementation of water resource plans. DEWNR, SE NRM Board and SAMDB NRM Board intend to maintain an ongoing dialogue with the NRA (as with other relevant Indigenous organisations in the WRP area) on the development and implementation of water resource plans to support the continuing consideration of Indigenous objectives and desired outcomes in water resource management. Having Ngarrindjeri express their connection to country will aid in the realisation of the benefits of caring for country and Ngarrindjeri well-being and improved water resource management in South Australia.

This SOC does not affect any native title rights or interests of the Ngarrindjeri or any other Aboriginal Group within South Australia.

CLLMM Ngarrindjeri Partnerships funding and service agreement

NRA's participation in the development and implementation of water resource plans is funded up to the end of June 2015 (and partially funded to the end of June 2016) through existing funding arrangements under the Ngarrindjeri Partnerships Project funding and service agreement between DEWNR and the NRA under the Australian Government and South Australian Government *Murray Futures* program, Coorong, Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth (CLLMM) project.

Ngarrindjeri Cultural Knowledge agreement

The Parties to this SOC have entered into a formal Cultural Knowledge agreement for the purpose of protecting and managing Ngarrindjeri Cultural Knowledge that may be disclosed as part of the implementation of the SOC. The agreement is between the NRA on behalf of the Ngarrindjeri and the Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation and the Minister for Water and the River Murray for and on behalf of DEWNR, the SA MDB NRM Board and the SE NRM Board. The Cultural Knowledge agreement is for the duration of this SOC.

Geographic Scope

The geographic extent of the SOC will cover those portions of the three water resource plan areas that lie within the boundary of the Ngarrindjeri & Others Native Title Claim (SAD6027/1998) and may include views on connected water resources within the three water resource plan areas.

The geographic extent of the water resource plan areas in South Australia are indicated in Figure 1.

The geographic extent of the water resource plan areas within the Ngarrindjeri native title claim are indicated in Figure 2.

Figure 1 Water Resource Plan areas in South Australia

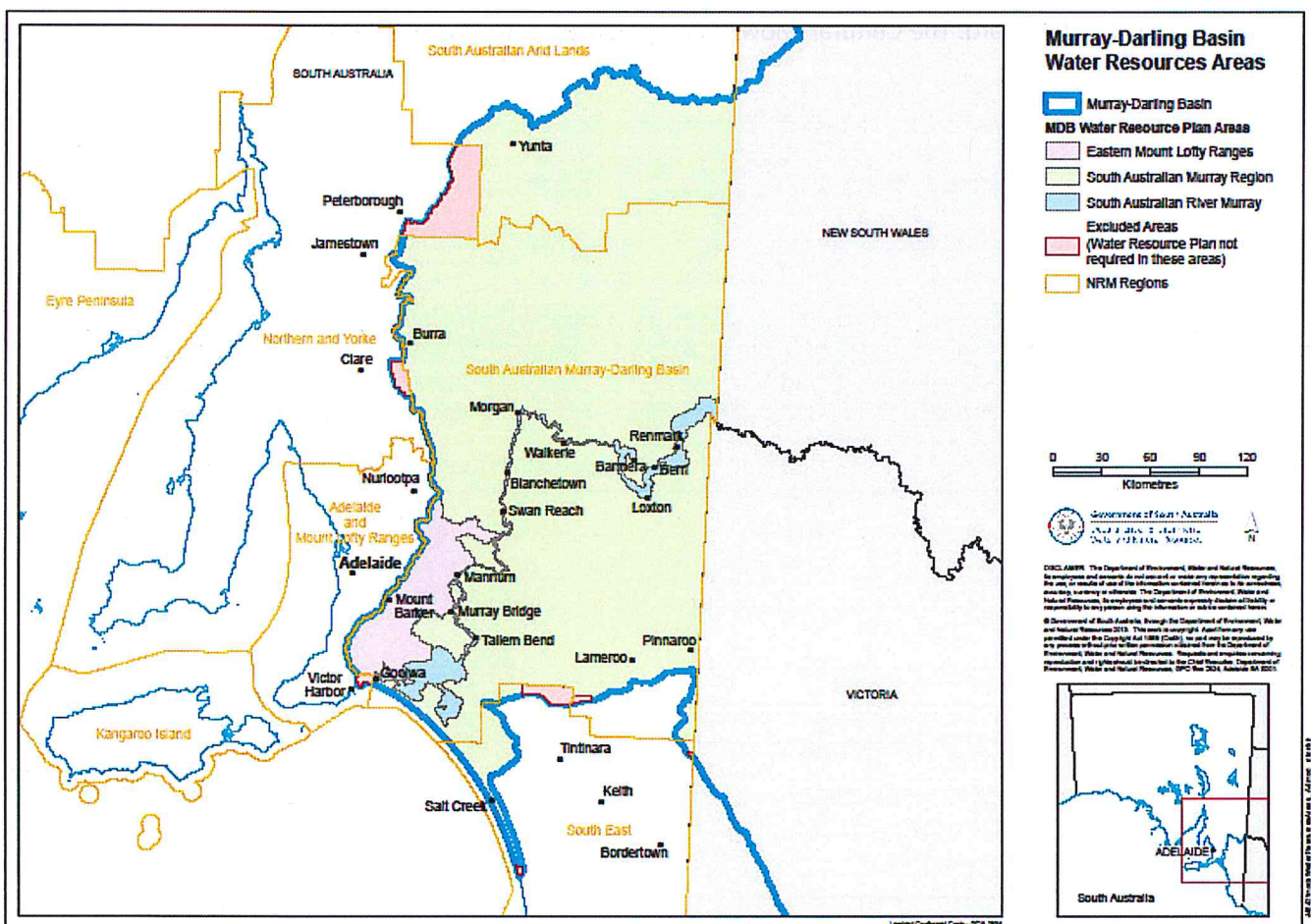
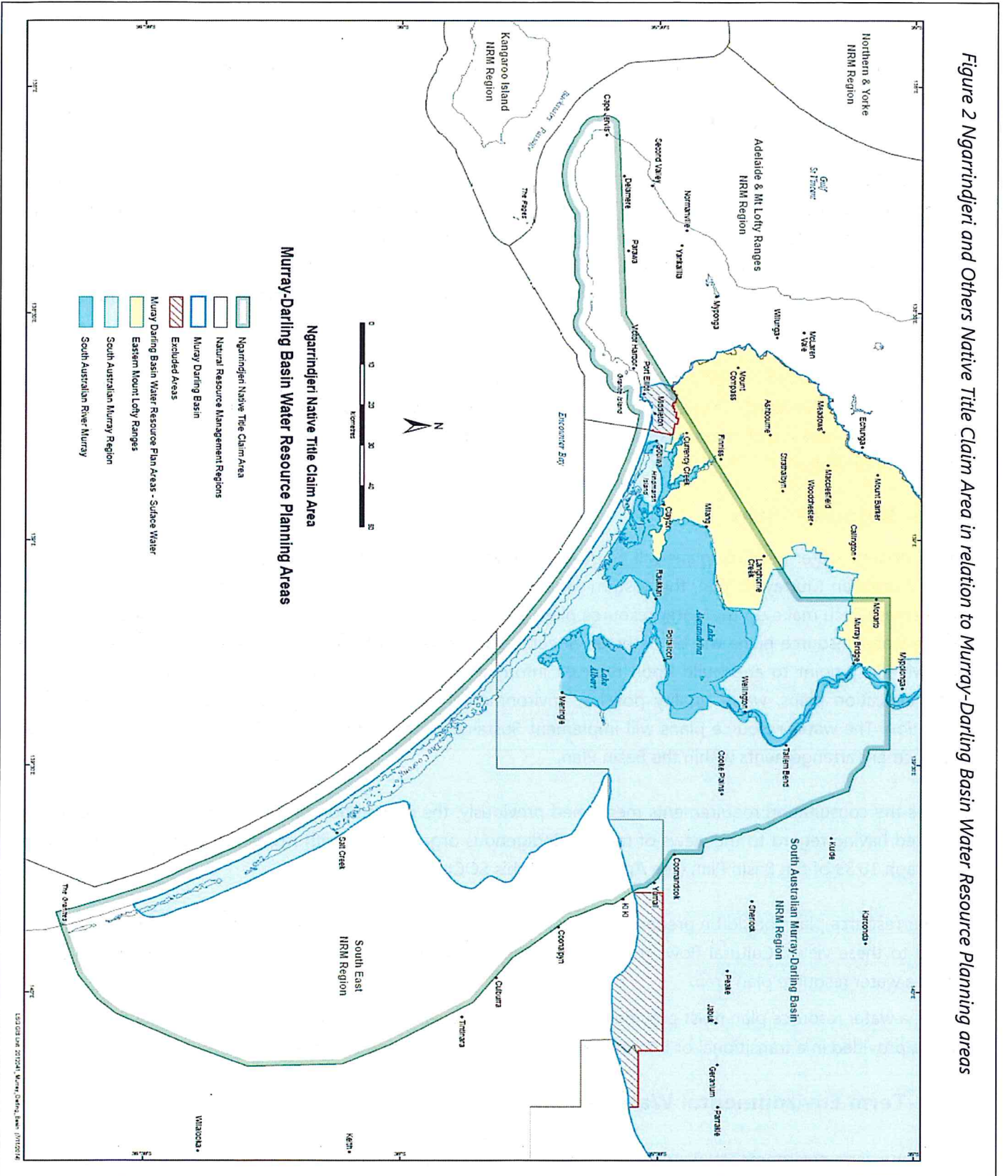


Figure 2 Ngarrindjeri and Others Native Title Claim Area in relation to Murray-Darling Basin Water Resource Planning areas



Context

Murray-Darling Basin Plan

The Basin Plan was adopted in November 2012 by the Australian Federal Government. The Basin Plan aims to return up to 3200 gigalitres (GL) of water to the River Murray and will help keep the Murray Mouth open, flush salt from the system, meet salinity and water quality targets to protect the Coorong, Lower Lakes and the river channel, and provide environmental flows to wetlands and floodplains. The Basin Plan guides the management of water across the Murray-Darling Basin in South Australia, New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland and the Australian Capital Territory.

South Australia has committed to ensuring water resources are managed consistently within the frameworks of the Basin Plan by advocating for, and implementing, water recovery projects, regional development initiatives, environmental works and measures, constraints management measures, and sustainable diversion limit (SDL) adjustment projects.

Water Resource Plans

Three separate water resource plans will be developed within South Australia to meet Basin Plan requirements. The South Australian Murray Region, the Eastern Mount Lofty Ranges and the South Australian River Murray are the three areas which make up the water resource plans and need to be in place by the end of 2019 (see figures 1 and 2). The water resource plans will be umbrella documents, and although their final scope is yet to be determined, they will likely point to and build upon relevant information from regional natural resource management plans, water allocation plans, water quality policies, environmental watering plans, policies, technical documents and legislation. The water resource plans will implement Sustainable Diversion Limits (SDLs) and other water resource management arrangements within the Basin Plan.

Besides the consultation requirements mentioned previously, the preparation of the water resource plans must be prepared having regard to the views of relevant Indigenous organisations with respect to those matters set out in paragraph 10.53 of the Basin Plan (see Appendix 1 of this SOC).

A water resource plan should be prepared in a way that elicits Indigenous Peoples views on cultural flows, and have regard to these views. Cultural flows may hold a different meaning to different Indigenous Peoples and Nations within a water resource plan area.

Finally, a water resource plan must provide at least the same level of protection of Indigenous values and uses as provided in a transitional or interim water resource plan (existing documents).

Long-Term Environmental Watering Plan

Three long-term environmental watering plans will be developed for water resource plan areas that contain surface water, either as separate documents or as part of a water resource plan. The long-term environmental watering plans will identify priority environmental assets and functions within each water resource plan area, ecological objectives and targets for those assets and functions, as well as the environmental water requirements (EWRs) to meet these objectives and targets. The plans must be developed consistently with a number of Basin Plan principles to be applied in environmental watering set out in Chapter 8 of the Basin Plan, including that environmental

watering will be undertaken in a way that maximises its benefits and effectiveness by having regard to Indigenous values.

Long-term environmental watering plans must be given to the Murray-Darling Basin Authority (Authority) 12 months after the publication of the Basin-wide environmental watering strategy¹ unless otherwise agreed to by the Authority and Basin State. The plans will be reviewed every five years, or one year after a water resource plan has been accredited.

DEWNR intends to continue to engage with the NRA on annual environmental watering priorities.

Kungun Ngarrindjeri Yunnan Agreement and Water Resource Planning

In 2009, the whole-of-government Kungun Ngarrindjeri Yunnan Agreement (KNYA) between the Ngarrindjeri and the South Australian Government was set in place to frame the Ngarrindjeri strategy for negotiating Ngarrindjeri interests in Natural Resource Management, and in particular the South Australian Government's *Securing the Future, Long-term Plan for the Coorong, Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth*. The KNYA provides for the establishment and funding of a joint taskforce that creates a formal negotiation setting for the NRA regarding South Australian Government programs on Ngarrindjeri *Ruwe/Ruwar*. The KNYA includes a recognition of Ngarrindjeri traditional ownership; and recognition of the NRA as the Ngarrindjeri peak body. The KNYA 2009 and the KNYA Taskforce have provided the primary Indigenous engagement mechanism for 'environmental' water planning in the SA MDB region.

The *KNYA Taskforce Strategic Implementation Plan*, co-written with DEWNR and endorsed in October 2014 outlines a number of objectives for the KNYA Taskforce to provide guidance on how it can support and implement positive outcomes². For this SOC, Objective 5 is of particular interest because of its relation to water planning and management.

Objective 5: Support coordinated and appropriate engagement with Ngarrindjeri on water related planning and management issues that affect the Ngarrindjeri Nation

A description of objective 5 states that the "Ngarrindjeri are inextricably connected to the fresh and saltwater of the Lower Murray, Lakes and Coorong. Water resource planning for this region and within the broader Murray-Darling Basin affect water quality and quantity flowing into Ngarrindjeri country"³. The document points out

¹ Basin Wide Environmental Watering Strategy was published on 24 November 2014 <http://www.mdba.gov.au/what-we-do/environmental-water/basin-watering-strategy>

² Kungun Ngarrindjeri Yunnan Agreement: Listening to Ngarrindjeri People talking, KNYA Taskforce Strategic Implementation Plan 2014, Government of South Australia DEWNR and Ngarrindjeri Regional Authority, 2014, p. 10

³ As above

that Ngarrindjeri are recognised as important partners in water resource management in the CLLMM region and have strong representation at the Murray-Darling Basin level through their delegates on the Murray, Lower Darling Indigenous Nations (MLDRIN) group. The Murray-Darling Basin Authority are progressively recognising the importance of acknowledging and considering Indigenous interests in water resource planning, particularly in regards to Cultural flows/water. The KNYA Taskforce can provide support to Commonwealth and State Government water resource planners in engaging Ngarrindjeri.

Principles

The following principles will guide this SOC:

1. This SOC is not legally binding on the Parties;
2. Mutually respectful processes, time and support to the NRA to care for country (caring for past, present and future people), including recognition of the importance of Ngarrindjeri to undertake their own research to inform their positions;
3. Mutually respectful processes, time and support to DEWNR staff to fulfil water resource plan related duties and requirements; and recognition that in developing water resource plans the State will have regard to the State's and the public interest
4. Shared resolve and commitment by each party to reach agreement and to implement the SOC's activities;
5. All Parties seek to further the objectives and outcomes of the plans and priorities they have participated in creating;
6. The development and implementation of water resource plans and long-term watering plans will have regard for NRA objectives and outcomes in respect to water resource management;
7. Ngarrindjeri Cultural Knowledge and intellectual property in relation to this SOC is protected under a separate agreement referred to in Section 2 ('Purpose') above;
8. A collaborative approach to care for water resources.

Working Relationship

The first meeting between DEWNR and the NRA to discuss water resource plans and the Basin Plan occurred at the KNYA Water Workshop on the 25-26 of February 2014. It was suggested at that meeting that a Statement of Commitment would be developed to guide the way the Parties will work together to deliver and implement water resource plans.

The Parties to this SOC agree to establish a Water Resource Planning SOC Working Group (Working Group) to implement the requirements of Chapter 10, Part 14 of the Basin Plan into South Australian water resource plans within Ngarrindjeri traditional lands and waters. The Working Group intends to meet as required to deliver joint SOC activities and will not have standing meeting dates. This arrangement aims to enable the Working Group meetings to undertake or coordinate targeted activities to assist in implementing the SOC. Working Group meetings will be jointly planned between the Parties' representatives and will consider regionally based meeting venues to ensure the right people are able to attend. The Parties intend to develop Terms of Reference, and an Annual Work Plan to guide the Working Group activities and Working Group meetings.

DEWNR intend to utilise the KNYA Taskforce to provide updates on implementation of the water resource plans. The Parties intend to utilise the Ngarrindjeri Yarluwar-Ruwe (NY-R) program group meetings to undertake water resource plan related consultation with the NRA. The KNYA Taskforce meetings are intended to be used to report updates on the status of the SOC implementation.

Working Group members propose to report regularly to their respective Parties regarding the status of achieving the outcomes of this SOC and Annual Work Plan.

The water resource plans will identify Ngarrindjeri objectives and desired outcomes, while having regard to Indigenous values and uses in relation to the management of the water resources in the relevant water resource plan areas. The identification will aid the development and implementation of Basin Plan compliant water resource plans and water resource management practices.

The Working Group meetings are intended to contribute to the identification of NRA objectives and desired outcomes of the management of the water resources within the relevant water resource plan areas.

The Parties propose to:

- Nominate representatives to participate in the water resource planning Working Group. Each Party will give the other Parties notice in writing (including by email) of its nominees from time to time.
- Develop an annual Work Plan to implement the SOC.
- Be responsible for the implementation of the activities specified in this SOC.
- Consider any other activities required for collaboration in planning.
- Monitor and evaluate progress against this SOC and any new activities developed through an annual review process.

Parties intend to work collaboratively to support Working Group meetings.

The Parties intend to build on existing engagement processes.

NRA Processes

NRA representatives taking part in meetings may undertake consultation of matters relevant to this SOC with the NY-R Program and if relevant, the broader Ngarrindjeri community. The NY-R Program will be responsible for endorsing NRA input to the consultation process before it comes to meetings.

Engagement and consultation will occur as required and may require flexibility in timing given cultural protocols and the availability of the relevant representatives. It is understood that Cultural Knowledge and the reasons behind specific NRA decisions may not be divulged.

Outcomes and Activities

The key outcomes and activities aim to meet the requirements of the Basin Plan and improve the management of the water resources within the water resource plan areas. The Parties acknowledge that there are also a number of intended outcomes and activities not required under the Basin Plan (including those intended to be carried out by the Working Group) and these have been listed separately. It is expected that further details of these outcomes and activities will be incorporated into the Working Group annual work plan.

The key outcomes of this SOC intended to contribute to meeting the requirements of the Basin Plan include:

- i. NRA representation in the development and implementation of the relevant water resource plans.
- ii. Identification of Ngarrindjeri objectives and outcomes in relation to management of the water resources of the water resource plan areas with regard to Ngarrindjeri cultural values and uses.
- iii. Identification of strategies for achieving above intended outcomes.
- iv. Acknowledgement of registered Aboriginal heritage relating to the water resources in the relevant water resource plan areas.
- v. Identification of risks to Ngarrindjeri values and uses from the use and management of the water resources of the water resource plan area.
- vi. Regard for Ngarrindjeri views on 'cultural flows' in the preparation of the relevant WRP.
- vii. Protection of Ngarrindjeri values and uses as documented in previous water allocation plans, or transitional or interim water resource plans for the relevant water resource plan area.

Intended outcomes of this SOC that are not required under the Basin Plan

- i. Establishment of a collaborative approach to seek opportunities to maintain and strengthen the protection of Ngarrindjeri values and uses in accordance with Ngarrindjeri objectives and desired outcomes for the water resources of the relevant water resource plan areas.
- ii. Joint consideration on how Ngarrindjeri objectives and desired outcomes for the management of the water resources may be identified in the relevant water resource plans.
- iii. Regard to social, spiritual and cultural values and the benefits that flow to Ngarrindjeri re-connection to country.
- iv. Progress toward increasing capacity-building opportunities and support for the maintenance and strengthening of current engagement and operational activities of the water resources in the relevant water resource plan areas.
- v. Progress toward a collaborative approach to care for water resources within the relevant water resource plan areas.
- vi. Increased awareness of mechanisms that could support Ngarrindjeri interests in water allocations and licencing.

The following arrangements are anticipated to apply to the establishment and operation of the Working Group:

- Parties each nominate representatives to participate in the Working Group.

- Establish the Working Group and associated governance arrangements (i.e. Terms of Reference and reporting arrangements).
- Develop Annual Work Plan for Working Group containing targeted activities to achieve SOC and Basin Plan outcomes.
- Utilise NY-R Program group meetings and KNYA Taskforce meetings for consultation.
- Schedule meetings between DEWNR and/or Natural Resources SAMDB and/or Natural Resources SE and NRA to identify and discuss possible integration of NRA cultural values and uses into water resource plans.

Appendix 1: Chapter 10 Part 14 of the Basin Plan Indigenous Values and Uses

10.52 Objectives and outcomes based on Indigenous values and uses

- (1) A water resource plan must identify:
 - (a) the objectives of Indigenous people in relation to managing the water resources of the water resource plan area; and
 - (b) the outcomes for the management of the water resources of the water resource plan area that are desired by Indigenous people.
- (2) In identifying the matters set out in subsection (1), regard must be had to:
 - (a) the social, spiritual and cultural values of Indigenous people that relate to the water resources of the water resource plan area (Indigenous values); and
 - (b) the social, spiritual and cultural uses of the water resources of the water resource plan area by Indigenous people (Indigenous uses);

as determined through consultation with relevant Indigenous organisations, including (where appropriate) the Murray Lower Darling Rivers Indigenous Nations and the Northern Murray–Darling Basin Aboriginal Nations.

- (3) A person or body preparing a water resource plan may identify opportunities to strengthen the protection of Indigenous values and Indigenous uses in accordance with the objectives and outcomes identified under subsection (1), in which case the opportunities must be specified in the water resource plan.

10.53 Consultation and preparation of water resource plan

- 1) A water resource plan must be prepared having regard to the views of relevant Indigenous organisations with respect to the matters identified under section 10.52 and the following matters:
 - (a) native title rights, native title claims and Indigenous Land Use Agreements provided for by the Native Title Act 1993 in relation to the water resources of the water resource plan area;
 - (b) registered Aboriginal heritage relating to the water resources of the water resource plan area;
 - (c) inclusion of Indigenous representation in the preparation and implementation of the plan;
 - (d) Indigenous social, cultural, spiritual and customary objectives, and strategies for achieving these objectives;
 - (e) encouragement of active and informed participation of Indigenous people;

- (f) risks to Indigenous values and Indigenous uses arising from the use and management of the water resources of the water resource plan area.

Note: For examples of the principles that may be applied in relation to the participation of Indigenous people, see the document titled 'MLDRIN and NBAN Principles of Indigenous Engagement in the Murray–Darling Basin'.

- (2) In this section, registered Aboriginal heritage means Aboriginal heritage registered or listed under a law of a Basin State or the Commonwealth that deals with the registration or listing of Aboriginal heritage (regardless of whether the law deals with the listing of other heritage).

10.54 Cultural Flows

A water resource plan must be prepared having regard to the views of Indigenous people with respect to cultural flows.

10.55 Retention of current protection

A water resource plan must provide at least the same level of protection of Indigenous values and Indigenous uses as provided in:

- (a) a transitional water resource plan for the water resource plan area; or
- (b) an interim water resource plan for the water resource plan area.

Appendix 2: Relevant Legislation, Plans and Reports

The following strategies, agreements, and plans may be relevant in achieving the intended outcomes and activities set out in the SOC:

1992, United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity.

1998, Ngarrindjeri perspectives on Ramsar Issues: Ngarrindjeri / Ramsar Working Group Report.

1999, Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (Cth).

2002, The Murray Mouth – Exploring the implications of closure or restricted flow.

2003, River Murray Act (SA).

2004, Intergovernmental Agreement on a National Water Initiative (Cth).

2004, Natural Resources Management Act (SA).

2006, Ngarrindjeri Yarlular-Ruwe Plan.

2006, Coorong and Lakes Albert and Alexandrina Ecological Character Description Report.

2006-2007, The Lower Lakes, Coorong and Murray Mouth Icon Site Environmental Management Plan.

2007, Murray Lower Darling Indigenous Nations Echuca Declaration.

2007, Water Act (Cth).

2008, Ngarrindjeri Regional Partnership Agreement.

2008, Economic and cultural values of water to the Ngarrindjeri people to the Lower Lakes, Coorong, and Murray Mouth.

2008, United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

2009, Kungun Ngarrindjeri Yunnan Agreement (NRA and South Australian Government).

2009, Securing the future, Long-term Plan for the Coorong, Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth.

2010, South East Natural Resources Management Plan.

2011, South Australia's Strategic Plan.

2012, CLLMM Ngarrindjeri Partnerships Funding and Service Agreement.

2012, Ngarrindjeri Regional Authority submission for and on behalf of the Ngarrindjeri people in relation to the proposed Murray-Darling Basin Plan.

2012, Murray-Darling Basin Plan (Cth).

2012, State Natural Resources Management Plan South Australia 2012-2017.

2013, Lower Lakes, Coorong and Murray Mouth Icon Site Environmental Water Management Plan.

2013, Murray-Darling Basin Plan: South Australian Implementation Strategy 2013-2019.

2014, River Murray Act Implementation Strategy (SA).

SAMDB NRM Board (2014a) *South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management (SAMDB NRM) Plan, Volume A: Strategic Plan*, SAMDB NRM Board, Murray Bridge, South Australia.

SAMDB NRM Board (2014b), *South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management (SAMDB NRM) Plan Volume B: Board Business and Operational Plan*, SAMDB NRM Board, Murray Bridge, South Australia.

South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board (SA MDB NRM Board). Review: Water Allocation Plan for the Noora Prescribed Wells Area. Berri, South Australia: SA MDB NRM Board, 2006.

South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board (SA MDB NRM Board). River Murray Water Allocation Plan Review June 2007. South Australia: SA MDB NRM Board, 2007.

South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board (SA MDB NRM Board). Water Allocation Plan for the Mallee Prescribed Wells Area. South Australia: SA MDB NRM Board, 2012.

South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board (SA MDB NRM Board). Water Allocation Plan for the Eastern Mount Lofty Ranges. South Australia: SA MDB NRM Board, 2013.

South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board (SA MDB NRM Board). Water Allocation Plan for the Marne Saunders Prescribed Water Resources Area. South Australia: SA MDB NRM Board, 2010.

South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board (SA MDB NRM Board). Water Allocation Plan for the Peake, Roby and Sherlock Prescribed Wells area. South Australia: SA MDB NRM Board, 2011.

Appendix 3: Strategic Outcomes

This SOC may help contribute to a number of the following State and NRA priorities and strategies.

Plan	Targets/Goals Met	Short or Long-Term Achievement
South Australia's Strategic Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5- Multiculturalism • 6- Aboriginal wellbeing • 23- Social participation • 24 Volunteering • 28- Aboriginal Leadership • 32- Customer and Client satisfaction with Government services • 53- Aboriginal employees • 69- Lose no species • 70- Sustainable land management • 72- Nature conservation • 75- Sustainable water use • 76- River Murray-flows • 77- River Murray- salinity • 86- Psychological wellbeing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short and Long-term • Short and Long-term • Short and Long-term • Long-term • Long-term • Short and Long-term • Long-term • Long-term • Long-term • Long-term • Long-term • Long-term • Long-term • Long-term
Government of South Australia Seven Strategic Priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safe communities, healthy neighbourhoods • Premium food and wine from our clean environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long-term • Long-term
DEWNR Corporate Plan 2012-2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen the regional natural resources management system and make it relevant for all South Australians, including by increasing opportunities for community to participate. • Improve the management and operation of the River Murray, especially through the opportunities provided by the Murray-Darling Basin Plan. • Streamline and improve water allocation planning processes across the state. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short and Long-term • Short and Long-term • Long-term
State Natural Resources Management Plan South Australia 2012-2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goal 1- People taking responsibility for natural resources and making informed decisions • Goal 2- Sustainable management and productive use of land, water, air and sea • Goal 3- Improved condition and resilience of natural systems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short and Long-term • Long-term • Long-term
Murray-Darling Basin Plan: South	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outcome 2- Environmental flows delivered to help protect and restore River Murray wetlands and floodplains, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long-term

Australian Implementation Strategy 2013-2019	<p>including the Chowilla floodplain and the Coorong, Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outcome 3- Secure, reliable and good quality water supplies that support healthy and productive industries, communities and ecosystems. • Outcome 5- Effective implementation of the Basin Plan and associated reforms to achieve beneficial outcomes for the river and its communities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long-term • Long-term
KNYA Taskforce Strategic Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objective 1: Building upon and promoting the significance of the KNYA Taskforce. • Objective 2: Supporting Ngarrindjeri education, training and capacity building. • Objective 3: Supporting Ngarrindjeri and the South Australian Government to Care for Country (not the Australian Government program). • Objective 4: Supporting Ngarrindjeri economic development opportunities. • Objective 5: Support coordinated and appropriate engagement with Ngarrindjeri on water related planning and management issues that affect the Ngarrindjeri Nation. • Objective 6: Encourage respectful and best practice research engagement with Ngarrindjeri. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short and Long-term • Short and Long-term • Short and Long-term • Short and Long-term • Short and Long-term • Short and Long-term • Short and Long-term
Ngarrindjeri Nation Yarlularu Plan 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ngarrindjeri cultural heritage and unique relationship with, and responsibilities for, the region are protected. • Strong and productive partnership between Ngarrindjeri, industry, government and others. • Build professional and culturally appropriate Ngarrindjeri capacity to increase skills and employability in caring for Country activities. • Ngarrindjeri participation in governance mechanisms and their interests and perspectives integrated into planning, research and policy development. • Ngarrindjeri playing a major role in implementing strategies to develop a resilient and healthy future for the lands and waters and all living things. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short and Long-term • Short and Long-term • Short and Long-term • Short and Long-term • Short and Long-term
IAP2 Public participation Spectrum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inform • Consult • Involve • Collaborate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short and Long-term • Short and Long-term • Short and Long-term • Long-term
South Australian Murray-Darling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People Vision: Communities contributing to the management of natural resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long-term

Basin Natural Resources Management (SAMDB NRM) Plan, Volume A: Strategic Plan (2014)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Resource Condition Target P2: Increase protection and preservation of Aboriginal culture through participation of Aboriginal people by 2030	
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Appendix 4: Definitions and Interpretations

Term	Definition/Interpretation
Annual Environmental Watering Priorities	The identification of annual environmental watering priorities for surface water in each water resource plan area that is identified by a Basin State for each water accounting period.
Basin Plan	The Murray-Darling Basin Plan that was adopted in November 2012
Caring for Country	A phrase used by Indigenous peoples including the Ngarrindjeri to describe the critical importance of looking after their relationships with their traditional lands.
CLLMM Region	The lands and waters within the surrounding Coorong, Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth
Knowledge	<p>All and any cultural knowledge, which includes but is not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tradition, observances, customs and beliefs; • Songs, music, dances, stories, ceremonies, symbols, narratives and designs; • Languages; • Spiritual knowledge; • Traditional economies and resources management; • Scientific, spatial, agricultural, technical, biological and ecological knowledge <p>and includes the manifestation of such cultural knowledge in documentation and other forms of media (such as videotape, audiotape, photographs, film, and archives), which may also be subject to any intellectual property and copyright owned by third parties in any such manifestation.</p>
Cultural Landscape	The way in which the region has been shaped by NRA custodianship and also includes the NRA spiritual beliefs on the formation and shaping of the region by Ancestral beings.
DEWNR	Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources
Ecosystem Services	The wellbeing, life ways and livelihoods humans derive from resources and processes that are supplied by natural environments.
Environmental Watering	The delivery or use of environmental water to achieve environmental outcomes.
Have regard to	Give matters proper, genuine and realistic consideration, even if not ultimately bound to act in accordance with those matters.
KNYA	The Kungun Ngarrindjeri Yunnan Agreement (listening to Ngarrindjeri people speaking) executed between the Minister for Environment and Conservation, the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation, the Minister for the River Murray, and the Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries and Ngarrindjeri Tendi Incorporated, Ngarrindjeri Heritage Committee, and Ngarrindjeri Native Title Management Committee for and on behalf of the Ngarrindjeri on 5 June 2009.
KNYA Taskforce	Established under the 2009 KNY Agreement. The KNYA establishes a consultation and negotiation framework about the management of the land located within the boundary of the Ngarrindjeri & Others native title claim (SAD6027/1998). The agreement includes a

	recognition of the Ngarrindjeri People as the traditional owners (as that term is defined in the Aboriginal Heritage Act, 1998 (SA)) of Aboriginal Sites, Objects and Remains within the area of the native title claim; an acknowledgment that the Ngarrindjeri community have formed a peak body called the Ngarrindjeri Regional Authority; and an agreement to negotiate on key, long-held Ngarrindjeri objectives, such as the co-management of parks and reserves.
Long-term watering plan	A long-term environmental watering plan that must be prepared for each water resource plan area that contains surface water by a Basin State.
MACAI	The Mannum Aboriginal Community Association Incorporated, which is a founding member of the NRA.
Murrundi	The River Murray in Ngarrindjeri
Natural Resources SAMDB	The regional staff involved in water planning in the SAMDB region.
Natural Resources SE	The regional staff involved in water planning in the SE region.
Ngarrindjeri Yannarumi	Ngarrindjeri maintaining the health of Ngarrindjeri Ruwe/Ruwar
NRA	Ngarrindjeri Regional Authority Incorporated
Parties	The entities or administrative units listed on page 4 of this document
Ruwe/Ruwar	Country, body and spirit
SAMDB NRM Board	The South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board
SEAFG	South East Aboriginal Focus Group
SE NRM Board	The South East Natural Resources Management Board
SOC	Statement of Commitment (this document)
Water accounting period	A period of 12 months beginning on 1 June of any year
Water allocation plan	A plan prepared by a regional NRM Board for each of the prescribed water resources within the NRM Boards region. May relate to more than one prescribed water resource.
Water Resource Plan	A plan that provides for the management of the water resource plan area under the Basin Plan.
Water Resource Plan Area	That area that contains part of the Basin water resources and is specified in the Basin Plan as an area that is a water resource plan area for the purposes of the <i>Water Act 2007</i> .
WRP	Water Resource Plan. There will be three developed in South Australia for the Basin Plan.
Yarluwar-Ruwe	Ngarrindjeri sea country