

This project is delivered under the Murray Darling Basin Plan by the NSW Government, through funding from the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment.

## Meeting 5, 22 May 2020, Video Conference

The Yanco Technical Advisory Group discussed planning for three Sustainable Diversion Limit Adjustment Mechanism (SDLAM) projects associated with the Yanco Creek System which aim to deliver equivalent environmental outcomes using less water.

- Improved Flow Management Works at the Murrumbidgee River – Yanco Creek Offtake
- Modernising Supply Systems for Effluent Creeks – Murrumbidgee River
- Computer Aided River Management (CARM) System for the Murrumbidgee River

The group acknowledged the land at Deniliquin where the meeting was chaired as the Traditional Homelands of the Wamba Wamba people.

David Clarke from NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (the department) chaired the meeting. In attendance: The department's Environment, Energy and Science Division (James Maguire, Anthony Conallin), Yanco Creek and Tributaries Advisory Council (Tanya Thompson, Dale McNeil), NSW Department of Primary Industries - Fisheries (David Hohnberg, Nathan Reynoldson, Matthew Gordos), Murray–Darling Basin Authority (Leah Ross), Commonwealth Environmental Water Office (Luke Taylor, Michele Groat), National Parks and Wildlife Service (Tim O'Kelly), Coleambally Irrigation Co-Operative (Steve Oosthusyen) and other staff from the department (Rachel Blakers, Rod Hardwick, Brendon Chatfield).

## Meeting summary

- Progress was noted on plans to finalise the SDLAM Options Evaluation Framework
  - The department is developing a submissions report for the second draft of the framework to publish on its website.
    - The department received 11 written submissions
  - Although there are several opportunities to refine the framework which will be reflected in the final version it will not significantly change from the second draft.
- In relation to implementation of the SDLAM Options Evaluation Framework for the Yanco SDLAM Program the group:
  - Agreed to equal weightings for the social, environmental, economic and cultural categories for the preliminary assessment of options.
  - Agreed that in addition to the preliminary assessment of options a sensitivity analysis be completed to assess if a change in weightings (including a higher environmental weighting) makes any material difference to the results.
  - Agreed to weightings for the four environmental category criteria (River flows and connectivity - 40%, Vegetation - 20%, Waterbirds – 20%, Fish - 20%).
  - Agreed that objectives and outcomes in the [Murrumbidgee Long Term Environmental Water Plan](#) (currently draft) be used as the key guide to inform the assessment of the four environmental category criteria.
  - Advice from the Yanco Community Advisory Group and Yanco Aboriginal Advisory Group (not yet formed) or some other appropriate Aboriginal representation on category and criteria weightings remains pending.
- The group agreed to recommend that 13 of 68 currently identified options should not pass the eligibility criteria stage of the SDLAM Options Evaluation Framework.

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