

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

Meeting 1, 30 October 2019, Deniliquin

The Yanco Technical Advisory Group discussed planning for three Sustainable Diversion Limit Adjustment Mechanism (SDLAM) projects associated with the Yanco Creek System.

- Yanco Creek Offtake Project
- Modernising Supply Systems For Effluent Creeks—Murrumbidgee River Project
- Computer-Aided River Management (CARM) Project.

Traditional Owners Karen Wilson and Anita Moubourne gave a Welcome to Country on behalf of the Wamba Wamba and Perrepa Perrapa Nations. They spoke of the importance of collaboration, partnership and inclusion.

The meeting was an early step in formal community and stakeholder engagement, as described in the Draft Community Engagement Plan published for public comment in September 2019.

The NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment chaired the meeting, which included technical representatives from the Yanco Creek and Tributaries Advisory Council, the department's Environment, Energy and Science Division (formerly the Office of Environment and Heritage), NSW Department of Primary Industries—Fisheries, National Parks and Wildlife Service, Local Land Services, Coleambally Irrigation Cooperative Limited, Murray Irrigation Limited, Department of Agriculture (Cwlth), Murray–Darling Basin Authority (Cwlth) and the Commonwealth Environmental Water Office.

Meeting summary

- Group members received materials and advice to help them understand the complexities and challenges of these projects.
- Although the Murrumbidgee Constraints Project is beyond the scope of the group's terms of reference, the group noted there are strong linkages and dependencies between it and parts of the Yanco SDLAM Program.
- The group recommended improvements to the draft terms of reference.
 - Advice is needed from WaterNSW (owner-operators of the CARM computer program) to decide if the CARM Project should remain in the terms of reference.
- The group agreed to meet in the last week of November for a field tour and workshop to help group members better understand project options. The workshop will also give members an opportunity to consider if any extra options should be added for assessment under a SDLAM Options Evaluation Framework that is under development.
 - The group will seek the advice of the Yanco Community Advisory Group and the Yanco Aboriginal Advisory Group about engaging the general community on project options.
- All group members will have an opportunity to participate in Aboriginal cultural and safety awareness training to be provided by local Aboriginal representatives.
- We will hold the first Yanco Community Advisory Group meeting on 14 November 2019.
- We are likely to hold the first Yanco Aboriginal Advisory Group meeting in late November.

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