Cultural flows

‘Cultural Flows are water entitlements that are legally and beneficially owned by the Indigenous Nations and are of a sufficient and adequate quantity and quality to improve the spiritual, cultural, environmental, social and economic conditions of those Indigenous Nations. This is our inherent right.’

The Echuca Declaration, September 2010
ABORIGINAL WATER

CULTURAL FLOWS
Aboriginal ownership
Economic benefits

CULTURAL WATER

ENVIRONMENTAL WATER (GOVT)

ABORIGINAL ENV. OUTCOMES
Improvements in:
Fish populations
Reed growth
Bird breeding

Ceremonies
Connecting with country
Stories
Camping
National Cultural Flows
Research Project

A future where Aboriginal water allocations are embedded within Australia’s water planning and management framework, delivering cultural, social, spiritual, environmental and economic benefit to communities across Australia
Research components

1. Literature review
2. Values and aspirations
3. Modelling and watering trials
4. Analyse impacts
5. Investigate policy, legal and institutional reforms
6. Capacity building
7. Communications
8. Project management
Case study sites
Research Committee

Murray Lower Darling Basin Indigenous Nations
- Darren Perry
- Rene Woods

Northern Basin Aboriginal Nations
- Maureen McKellar
- Michael Anderson

- Independent chair
  - Damein Bell
- North Aust. Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance
  - Paul Lane
- Plus...
  - MDBA
  - CEWO
  - NNTC and Basin State Governments
Research outcomes

- Clearer understanding of value and scope of cultural flows
- Methods for defining cultural values and quantifying cultural flow requirements
- Monitoring and indicator frameworks
- Identified opportunities for policy, legislative and governance reform
What next...

Co-ordinate with other cultural flows projects across Australia

Identify barriers, opportunities and reforms to realise cultural flows

Complete field research at case study sites