

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

Meeting 2, 27 November 2019, Jerilderie

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.

The group acknowledged the land at Jerilderie where the meeting was held as the Traditional Homelands of the Bangerang people. The group also acknowledged the land along other sections of the Yanco Creek System as the Traditional Homelands of the Wiradjuri, Barapa Barapa and Wamba Wamba people.

The meeting followed a group field tour the previous day along sections of the Billabong Creek between Jerilderie and Conargo and parts of the regulated section of the Forest Creek. This provided group members with an opportunity improve their knowledge of the Yanco Creek System and enable them to better understand many of the issues associated with these projects.

The NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (David Leslie) chaired the meeting, which included technical representatives from the Yanco Creek and Tributaries Advisory Council (Tanya Thompson, Dale McNeil), the department's Environment, Energy and Science Division (James Maguire), NSW Department of Primary Industries—Fisheries (Luke Pearce), Coleambally Irrigation Cooperative Limited (Steve Oosthuysen), Department of Agriculture (Frank Cita, Jesse Rowlings), Murray–Darling Basin Authority (Leah Ross), Commonwealth Environmental Water Office (Erin Lenon) and other staff from the department (Rachel Blakers, Mark Rowe, David Clarke). A full list of group's membership will soon be published on the Department's website.

Meeting summary

The group:

- Endorsed an updated draft terms of reference with a minor amendment to the quorum.
- Was briefed on a broad range of SDLAM project options for the Yanco Creek system that have been identified to date.
 - The department will seek advice from the Yanco Community Advisory Group and the Yanco Aboriginal Advisory Group about engaging the general community on project options.
- Noted progress on the early development of a new computer model that will assist to inform the assessment of project options.
- Noted progress on the development of a SDLAM Options Evaluation Framework.
- Agreed all key stakeholders need to be actively engaged in the process.
- Agreed options to be progressed need to have measurable savings and/or outcomes.
- Noted significant volumes of water adjustments were already achieved within the Yanco Creek System through water access licence buybacks and the Water for Rivers Project and remaining options are generally complex.
- Noted the importance of clear operating rules that will impact the assessment of options.
- Agreed to meet at Wagga Wagga on 26 February 2020 to discuss the group's future vision for the Yanco Creek System to better inform the assessment of options.

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