Published by NSW Department of Industry

Macquarie–Castlereagh water resource plan consultation report


INT17/221843

More information

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Acknowledgments

NSW Office of Environment and Heritage
NSW Department of Primary Industries—Agriculture
NSW Department of Primary Industries—Fisheries
NSW Department of Primary Industries—Local Land Services

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Aboriginal acknowledgement

The New South Wales Government proudly acknowledges the Aboriginal community of NSW and their rich and diverse culture and pays respect to their Elders past, present and future.

NSW acknowledges Aboriginal people as Australia’s First Peoples, practising the oldest living culture on earth and as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the lands and waters.

We acknowledge that the people of the Gomeroi/Kamilaroi, Ngemba, Ngiyampaa, Wailwan and Wiradjuri Nations hold a significant connection to the lands in the Macquarie–Castlereagh Water Resource Plan Area. The Macquarie–Castlereagh Water Resource Plan Area holds great areas of spiritual, cultural and economic importance to the First Nation people and NSW recognises the connection of the water to the people of these nations.

We recognise the intrinsic connection of Traditional Owners to country and acknowledge their contribution to the management of the Macquarie–Castlereagh Water Resource Plan Area landscape and natural resources.

NSW Department of Industry understands the need for consultation and inclusion of Traditional Owner knowledge, values and uses in water quality planning to ensure we are working towards equality in objectives and outcomes.

NSW Department of Industry is committed to continued relationships and building strong partnerships with our First Nation People.

We thank the Elders, representatives of Gomeroi/Kamilaroi, Ngemba, Ngiyampaa, Wailwan and Wiradjuri Nations and Aboriginal community who provided their knowledge throughout the planning process.
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1 Introduction

1.1 The role of the consultation report

Consultation with stakeholders and the community is at the forefront of the development of NSW water resource plans (WRPs). Consultation has been undertaken for each of the 20 surface water and groundwater WRPs being developed by NSW. The purpose of this report is to describe the consultation that was undertaken. Specifically, this report will detail the public consultation, both broad and targeted, that took place to further the development of the Macquarie–Castlereagh WRP and inform changes to the Macquarie–Castlereagh Regulated and Unregulated Water Sharing Plans (WSPs).

1.2 The Basin Plan 2012 (Water Act 2007 (Cwlth))

The Murray–Darling Basin Plan 2012 (the Basin Plan) provides a coordinated approach to managing water within the Murray–Darling Basin across Queensland, NSW, Australian Capital Territory, Victoria and South Australia. In NSW, the Basin Plan came into effect following the signing of Inter-governmental and National Partnership Agreements in 2014. As lead agency, NSW Department of Industry is working with the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) and NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI Fisheries) to implement the Basin Plan. It requires NSW to develop WRPs for each area within the Murray–Darling Basin. The development of each WRP is guided by the requirements set out in Chapter 10 of the Basin Plan. Consultation and the views of local communities are an integral part of the preparation and development of WRPs. The following requirements of the Basin Plan will be assessed in relation to consultation.

1.3 Macquarie–Castlereagh WRP area

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**10.07 Consultation to be demonstrated**

(1) A water resource plan prepared by a Basin State must contain a description of the consultation in relation to the plan (including in relation to any part of the plan), if any, that was undertaken before the State gave the plan to the Authority under subsection 63(1) of the Act.

**10.26 Planning for environmental watering**

(1) A water resource plan must provide for environmental watering to occur…

(2) For the purposes of subsection (1), the water resource plan must be prepared having regard to:

(b) the views of local communities, including bodies established by a Basin State that express community views in relation to environmental watering.

**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.
The Macquarie–Castlereagh WRP area is located in central western NSW and is based around the Castlereagh, Macquarie and Bogan Rivers. All three rivers flow generally north-west across central NSW to meet the Barwon River. The catchment is bounded by the Great Dividing Range to the east, the Barwon–Darling catchment to the west, the Namoi region to the north and the Lachlan region to the south. The Macquarie–Castlereagh WRP will cover all the surface water resources of the Macquarie–Castlereagh River Valley (Figure 1). It includes the regulated river system; unregulated rivers flowing into the regulated river systems; unregulated effluent rivers flowing out of the regulated river system on the plains and water captured through farm dams and floodplain harvesting.

![Map of Macquarie–Castlereagh Water Resource Plan Area](image)

**Figure 1.SW11 Macquarie–Castlereagh Water Resource Plan Area**

## 2 Consultation

Stakeholder consultation is an essential part of the development of NSW WRPs and was undertaken throughout the development of the Macquarie–Castlereagh WRP. The general public and stakeholders had opportunity to provide comment during the early phase of WRP development through the Status and issues phase (Section 2.1.1) and then again in the later stages of WRP development during the public exhibition phase (Section 2.1.2).
2.1 Broad public consultation

2.1.1 Status and issues phase

The Macquarie–Castlereagh Water Resource Plan - Status and Issues Paper (NSW Department of Industry, 2016) was released for public comment on 23 November 2016. The paper compiled the issues raised as part of the WSP replacement process and provided an opportunity for stakeholders to raise additional issues to be considered during the development of each WRP. The paper is available on the NSW Department of Industry website: www.industry.nsw.gov.au

Twenty five public submissions on this paper were received and within these submissions 126 issues were raised. Further examination and discussion was undertaken by NSW Department of Industry on the issues in order to prepare an Issues Assessment Report. The Issues Assessment Report presented issues raised as part of WSP replacement, as well as those raised recently through the public exhibition of the Status and Issues Document. The report indicated whether an issue is to be considered further during the water resource planning process along with those not to be progressed and the reasons why. This information was presented to the Macquarie Stakeholder Advisory Panel (see Section 2.2.1) and informed decisions for option prioritisation leading into the strategy and rule development phase of WRP development.

Key issues identified for consideration included:

- review carry-over forfeiture rules
- review carry-over exemptions for Cudgegong General Security licence holders
- review the frequency of the account reset rule following a dam spill
- review environmental flow rules for the Cudgegong River
- review the rules for the Environmental Water Allowance (EWA) in the Macquarie River.
- formalise existing arrangements for replenishment flow in the Macquarie River below Oxley
- review supplementary access and account management rules to provide flexibility for license holders
- review trade limits to provide greater flexibility for water users.

2.1.2 Public exhibition phase

The amended WSPs for the Macquarie Cudgegong Regulated River water source, Macquarie Bogan Unregulated water sources, Castlereagh unregulated water sources and the draft Macquarie–Castlereagh WRP is available for public comment as part of the public exhibition phase.

During this phase NSW Department of Industry communicated with stakeholders in a number of ways:

- community meetings
- targeted consultation with specific communities directly affected by significant rule changes
- print and virtual media campaign.

NSW Department of Industry is seeking submissions on the draft WRP and amended WSPs. Supporting documents are available to provide context and background information.

Public submissions received on the draft WRP and amended WSPs will be uploaded to a submissions database system and will be considered when finalising the WRP. NSW Department of Industry will focus on issues that are raised during public exhibition that have a material effect on the proposed changes.

2.2 Targeted consultation

Targeted consultation was undertaken for each surface water WRP primarily through a stakeholder advisory panel (SAP). The SAP is one of the main mechanisms to involve key stakeholders in the planning process for the regulated rivers. The SAPs provide a forum where competing interests can be aired and discussed to promote common understanding. Where further consultation is required, NSW
Department of Industry will also liaise directly with other representative groups or individuals such as identified experts, Aboriginal communities, local councils, local water users and other interest groups.

As part of the water resource plan process, a review of the Cudgegong environmental flow rules was requested by OEH and DPI Fisheries. Additional targeted consultation was undertaken in Mudgee on 8 May 2018 with Cudgegong stakeholders to discuss the management of environmental water in the Cudgegong River. The meeting was held to discuss replacing the existing translucency rules with a environmental water allowance and to present the options being considered by the SAP. Approximately 25 people attended, with a broad cross section of the community represented including licence holders, recreational fishers, local business owners, environmental interests and local landholders. The meeting provided important feedback on the proposed options which informed NSW Department of Industry’s recommendations for the draft WRP package.

All aspects of the WRP development, including the review of relevant water sharing arrangements, have been prepared with regard to the views of local communities in relation to environmental watering. This has been achieved primarily through the SAP, where key components and proposed changes to water sharing rules have been considered and discussed in detail. Environmental watering has been a consistent theme during these discussions with various views expressed by members.

Proposals to change planned environmental water (PEW) rules have been developed in close consultation with OEH and DPI Fisheries consistent with WSP objectives and where possible using environmental water requirements in the draft long term watering plans (LTWPs) to ensure the best environmental outcomes using PEW.

2.2.1 Macquarie SAP

The main role of the SAP is to help identify issues, examine options and provide NSW Department of Industry with feedback and advice throughout the development of WRPs. The Macquarie SAP, established in July 2015, takes membership from the following stakeholder groups or interests:

- NSW Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH)
- NSW Department of Primary Industries—Fisheries (DPI Fisheries)
- NSW Department of Industry
- WaterNSW
- Murray–Darling Basin Authority (MDBA)
- Commonwealth Environmental Water Office (CEWO)
- Macquarie Environmental Flow Reference Group (EFRG)
- Macquarie Customer Advisory Group (CAG)
- Macquarie River Food and Fibre (MRFF)
- Orana Regional Organisation of Councils
- Indigenous representatives nominated by Northern Basin Aboriginal Nations (NBAN).


Information and technical reports have been discussed with the SAP throughout the WRP development. SAP meetings held as part of the Macquarie–Castlereagh WRP development and the key agenda items that were discussed at these meetings can be seen in Table 1.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SAP Meeting</th>
<th>SAP Meeting Description</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Date</th>
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| 1           | Overview of SAP process and WRPs  
SAP terms of reference  
Prioritise issues  
Scope modelling requirements for high priority issues  
Overview of long term watering plan (LTWP) | Dubbo, NSW | 20 July 2015 |
| 2           | Modelling overview  
Suspension of environmental water releases and payback arrangements  
Review environmental water allowance (EWA)—Macquarie River  
Review supplementary access  
Review full supply level for Burrendong Dam | Dubbo, NSW | 9 September 2015 |
| 3           | Framework and principles for development of WRP’s  
Update on IQQM and changes to BDL and PBP scenarios  
Review Macquarie EWA rules  
Review of supplementary access—review access triggers, discuss carry over options and trading/capacity sharing  
Review full supply level for Burrendong Dam | Dubbo, NSW | 24 February 2016 |
| 1*          | WRP Roadmap and Timelines  
Status and issues paper  
Triage of issues and multi-criteria analysis of options  
Modelling to support WRP  
WSP evaluation  
Risk assessment status | Dubbo, NSW | 13 December 2016 |
| 2           | Evaluation report  
Draft issues assessment report  
Prioritisation methodology/prioritisation analysis approach table  
Risk assessment  
Baseline diversion limit (BDL) and pre basin plan (PBP) modelling reports | Dubbo, NSW | 11 July 2017 |
| 3           | Trade report  
Review Macquarie EWA  
Review supplementary access triggers  
Supplementary carryover  
Frequency of account reset rule | Dubbo, NSW | 12 October 2017 |
| 4           | Accuracy of downstream Marebone Weir gauge  
Water balance report  
Review Macquarie EWA—new option  
Macquarie–Castlereagh trade report—compliance of dealing rules  
Cudgeong carryover rules – Schedule 2 licenses  
Draft incident response guide  
Long term watering plan  
Draft water quality technical report  
Draft salinity technical report | Dubbo, NSW | 6 December 2017 |
| 5           | Review of Cudgeong environmental flow rules:  
- Overview of Cudgeong River  
- LTWP targets and objectives  
- Modelling report  
- Suspension of environmental releases from Windamere Dam  
- Aligning GS account management rules | Dubbo, NSW | 13 March 2018 |
## SAP Meeting Description

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<td>Volumetric trade constraints</td>
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<td>Cudgegong Environmental Water Allowance—summary report</td>
<td>Dubbo, NSW</td>
<td>20 September 2018</td>
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<td>•</td>
<td>Proposed changes to water sharing rules for Macquarie Cudgegong regulated water source</td>
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<td>•</td>
<td>Updated BDL and PBP scenarios</td>
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<td>Water quality management plan</td>
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<td>•</td>
<td>Draft environmental, socio-economic and cultural objectives</td>
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<td>Water resource plan template</td>
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* SAP meeting process was reset on 30 November 2016, resulting in the meeting numbers re-starting.

### 2.2.2 Workshops for all stakeholder advisory panels

NSW Department of Industry convened two ‘all stakeholder advisory panel’ workshops during the course of WRP development. Both workshops were held in Sydney, the first on 11 and 12 December 2017 and the second on 5 and 6 June 2018. Attendees included representatives from all stakeholder advisory panels involved in water resource plan development. Key NSW government agencies including OEH and DPI Fisheries. The MDBA and CEWO were also represented.

The first workshop covered the following topics:

- NSW Government’s response to recent reviews and how the NSW Department of Industry will approach its responsibilities within the Murray–Darling Basin
- Key NSW policy issues requiring resolution in order to progress WRP development
- Role of modelling and planning assumptions in NSW’s water resource planning
- Management of environmental water
- How SAPs and agencies can work together to deliver the water resource plans over the next 12–18 months.

The second workshop addressed unresolved matters identified as part of the first meeting. NSW Department of Industry provided an update on key reforms and shared information on the water resource planning process. The workshop also provided an opportunity to seek stakeholder input and collaborate on critical issues.

Sessions focussed on the following topics:

- State-wide planning assumptions
- The WRP including the LTWP, risk assessment and water quality management plan
- MDBA compliance framework
- Water Renewal Taskforce update
- First Nation engagement and cultural water
- Northern Basin floodplain harvesting and northern watering event and Southern Basin SDL adjustment mechanism and pre-requisite policy measures (PPMs)
- Groundwater policy update.
2.3 Healthy floodplains project

The NSW Healthy Floodplains project is an Australian and NSW Government-funded project that aims to reform water management on northern basin floodplains. The purpose of the project is to administer and manage floodplain extractions and undertake valley-wide floodplain management plans to maintain connectivity to existing floodplain habitat. This will be done by implementing the NSW Floodplain Harvesting Policy (2013), which will licence water extractions from the designated floodplain.

The project will be rolled out in the Gwydir, Border Rivers, Namoi, Macquarie and Barwon-Darling valleys.

There are two simultaneous, but separate, programs of the NSW Healthy Floodplains project:

1. **Floodplain Management Planning Program**

   Extensive consultation was undertaken as part of the development of the Macquarie Valley Wide Floodplain Management Plan. Targeted consultation with key stakeholders was held in Warren during May 2017. NSW Department of Industry and OEH road-tested the proposed Macquarie Valley Wide Floodplain Management Plan (FMP) boundary, management zones and rules with 52 key stakeholders over ten targeted consultation events. A range of stakeholders were represented including local landholders, indigenous community, environmental local government, agency, and industry.

   The draft Macquarie Valley FMP was placed on public exhibition during 16 July to 13 September 2018. A total of 28 submissions were received during the exhibition period and a number of changes were made as a result of the feedback received. The submissions are currently being processed. The Macquarie Valley FMP is due to commence 15 June 2019.

2. **Floodplain Harvesting Program**

   The NSW Floodplain Harvesting Policy was endorsed by the NSW Government in 2013 following a period of extensive consultation with all stakeholders from 2008. The policy aims to bring all legitimate floodplain harvesting diversions (those from historically approved infrastructure) within the water licensing framework under the Water Management Act 2000.

   Public consultation on proposed amendments to the policy occurred at the Stakeholder Advisory Panel Policy Forum on 11 and 12 December 2017 and as part of the Water Reform Action Plan consultation in March and April 2018. Stakeholder feedback was sought on the following:

   - management of rainfall runoff
   - monitoring of floodplain harvesting take
   - proposed approach to account management rules for floodplain harvesting.


   To ensure the effective implementation of the Policy, the Department of Industry - Water is holding a series of workshop sessions across NSW. Workshop series 1 involved three workshops in Dubbo, Sydney and Tamworth in October 2018. The purpose of this workshop series was to:

   - communicate process for finalising floodplain harvesting modelling
   - provide an overview of the model refinement process including data sources and verification processes
   - test key floodplain harvesting modelling assumptions
   - provide information about the independent review of NSW floodplain harvesting policy implementation; including the modelling peer review process
   - test key monitoring and auditing requirements.

   Workshop series 2 will occur in early-mid 2019, the goal of this workshop series is to communicate the findings of the peer review and provide an update on the revised valley scale floodplain harvesting modelling outcomes.
To improve stakeholder confidence, the department, together with the Murray–Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) has commissioned an independent review of the policy’s implementation. The focus of the independent review is to ensure that the modelling is technically robust, based on the best available information and that implementation of the policy is consistent with relevant legislation and other related policies.

This process will delay the release of the draft floodplain entitlement licences to mid-2019.

2.4 Long-term watering plan

OEH is developing long-term water plans (LTWPs) across all nine NSW Murray–Darling Basin catchments. These plans link to the basin-scale plans developed by the MDBA, and include detailed objectives, targets and watering requirements for priority species and processes within, and between, catchments.

A key element in the development of the LTWPs involved consultation with Environmental Water Advisory Groups (EWAGs). These groups are established by OEH in the majority of NSW’s regulated catchments and are made up of riparian landholders, representatives of Aboriginal organisations, irrigators and relevant government agencies. They meet to discuss watering options and test scenarios - to ensure river and wetland health outcomes are maximised through the use of environmental water.

The development of the LTWP involved incorporating the best available information and scientific advice. In addition to the consultation undertaken with EWAGs, OEH has sought feedback from other various stakeholders, including:

- stakeholder Advisory Panels established to input into Water Resource Plan development
- interagency Consultation Groups, established in each LTWP catchment, that include relevant agency staff and scientists with expertise in the area
- other key regional stakeholder groups.

Consultation undertaken by OEH is guided by a communications and engagement strategy. This ensures that OEH meet the community’s expectation surrounding information on environmental water and its management.

It is intended that the draft Macquarie–Castlereagh LTWP will be placed on public exhibition at the same time as the draft Macquarie–Castlereagh WRP to ensure efficient stakeholder engagement. OEH will consider all feedback when finalising the Macquarie–Castlereagh LTWP.

3 First Nations consultation

The Macquarie–Castlereagh WRP area is located within the traditional lands of, and is significant to, the Gomeroi/Kamilaroi, Ngemba, Ngiyampaa, Wailwan and Wiradjuri Nations and traditional owners. NSW Department of Industry has committed to engaging and consulting with various nations to identify and record objectives and outcomes in regard to Aboriginal spiritual and cultural values and uses within the Macquarie–Castlereagh WRP area. Consultation undertaken followed a nation-based model, which allows individual Nations to contribute to WRPs and assist the government to make better decisions in water planning.

NSW Department of Industry engaged the services of a number of consultancies to facilitate the gathering of cultural information from traditional owners. The consultation and report status, and the consultant engaged, is listed in Table 2. The consultation reports will become available as appendices as they are finalised.
Table 2. Status of consultation and report for each Nation

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<tr>
<th>Nation</th>
<th>Consultant</th>
<th>Consultation Status</th>
<th>Consultation Report Status</th>
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<td>WSP</td>
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3.1 Gomeroi/Kamilaroi Nation

Gomeroi Nation boundaries cross over six surface water and seven groundwater WRP areas. The consultation process adhered to the Murray–Darling Basin Plan Part 14 Guidelines for meeting Basin Plan Chapter 10 requirements. The process was underpinned by eight principles for culturally appropriate consultation:

- respect for the Contemporary Cultural Framework
- flexibility
- collaboration
- quality assurance
- clear communication
- building tangible outcomes
- inclusivity and accessibility
- Indigenous data sovereignty.

3.1.1 Face-to-face interviews

A series of face-to-face interviews were undertaken with Senior Traditional Owners (TOs) from the Gomeroi Nation in late March 2018. Senior TOs who participated in the face-to-face interviews were drawn from three categories – grassroots, Native Title applicants and suggestions from other interview participants. Eight TOs participated in these interviews, they represented their own family groups and spoke for a broad range of communities and different areas of Gomeroi Nation. These interviews assisted in formulating the discussion undertaken in the workshops held in April 2018.

The process involved in identifying Senior TOs and the questions they were asked can be reviewed in detail in Appendix A.

3.1.1 Workshops

Following on from the face-to-face interviews First Nation consultation workshops were held in Tamworth, Walgett, Moree and Tingha in April 2018. These workshops gave NSW Department of Industry the opportunity to engage with the wider Gomeroi community and capture their views and opinions on objectives, outcomes, values and uses for the Macquarie–Castlereagh WRP area. Common themes were used to guide discussion in the workshops. These were established during the face-to-face interviews and included:

- water is life
• healthy Country and people
• cultural continuity and revival
• custodianship and jurisdiction
• compensation and redress
• management and control
• communication and partnerships

A total of 31 people representing 25 family groups participated in the four workshops, including 31 Gomeroi TOs. Detailed workshop participant data can be viewed in Appendix A (Table 4). In addition to Gomeroi participants representatives from Northern Basin Aboriginal Nations, NSW Department of Industry and OEH also attended the workshops.

As a result of this two-step consultation process Gomeroi Nation’s values and uses were identified. The risks to those values and uses were also acknowledged and these were further built on to develop objectives and outcomes for water management (see Appendix A).

3.1.2 Consultation outcomes

Successful outcomes included a total of 36 Gomeroi people consulted, representing a broad set of families; the use of data agreements to safeguard First Nations Cultural Knowledge; engagement with a nation-based traditional governance model; and comprehensive findings. Participants gave positive feedback about new Nation-based consultation processes. A series of recommendations suggest improvements for future consultations to make them more culturally appropriate.

The consultation with the Gomeroi Nation satisfied the Basin-Plan outcomes as demonstrated in Table 3 and described throughout Section 1 of the Macquarie–Castlereagh Surface WRP and Appendix A.

### Table 3. Gomeroi Nation consultation outcomes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Outcome</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Demonstrate that the WRP was developed in a way that had genuine regard to objectives and outcomes in respect of social, spiritual and cultural values and uses of the water resources by Aboriginal people.</td>
<td>NSW Department of Industry completed Nations consultation in conjunction with NBAN. The process developed objectives and outcomes that have respect for social, spiritual and cultural values and uses for water resources. An overview of the objectives and values are in Chapter 1 Section 1.2.3 Table 1.2 of the Macquarie–Castlereagh WRP. Detailed information on the objectives and outcomes considered in respect of values and uses can be found in Section 7 of Appendix A.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>That consultation with relevant Indigenous organisations was undertaken, including with the Northern Murray–Darling Basin Aboriginal Nations</td>
<td>Consultation was undertaken with relevant Indigenous organisations such as NBAN and LALC’s. NBAN played a key role in the consultation and were brought on-board to be nation organisers and had an important role in phases 3 and 4 of the process. They also advised on methods to ensure the consultation was culturally appropriate. NSW Department of Industry worked with NBAN to appoint a Nation Organiser to suggest appropriate Traditional Owners to engage with. NBAN representatives were present at all workshops. Development of the stakeholder list also involved a desktop analysis of external and internal governance structures, including Local Aboriginal Land Councils (LALCs), Aboriginal Medical Services (AMS), committees and social media groups. Further information on this is described throughout Appendix A.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>That the consultation had regard to the views of</td>
<td>Discussions on native title rights, native title claims and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Requirement</td>
<td>Outcome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>relevant Indigenous organisations with respect to native title rights,</td>
<td>Indigenous Land Use Agreements and the <em>Native Title Act 1993</em> in relation to the water resources of the Macquarie–Castlereagh area were held throughout the consultation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>native title claims and Indigenous Land Use Agreements provided for by</td>
<td>A letter was sent out to NTS Corp to advise on further consultations on country and how they would like to be engaged. One representative from NTS Corp was in attendance at the workshops held. Any comments made can be found in Appendix A.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the <em>Native Title Act 1993</em> in relation to the water resources of the WRPA</td>
<td>Community WRP workshops were held (Appendix A) and invitations were emailed to a wide range of people and organisations including Native Title applicants and claimants.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>That the consultation had regard to the views of relevant Indigenous</td>
<td>Local Aboriginal Lands Councils were invited via email, opportunities arose for them to speak of any listed sites on the heritage register throughout the workshop sessions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>organisations with respect to registered Aboriginal heritage relating to the</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>water resources of the WRPA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>That the consultation had regard to the views of relevant Indigenous</td>
<td>NSW Department of Industry directly engaged with NBAN to engage a Nation Organiser to suggest appropriate Traditional Owners to engage with. The consultation process utilised a representative from NBAN for the GomeroiNation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>organisations with respect to inclusion of Indigenous representation in the</td>
<td>Refer to Chapter 1, Section 1.7.1 of the Macquarie–Castlereagh Surface Water WRP and Appendix A.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>preparation and implementation of the plan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>That the consultation had regard to the views of relevant Indigenous</td>
<td>Appendix A in Section 7.3 details the various objectives that were identified with the desired outcomes and also outlines strategies to achieve these outcomes. Objectives and values are summarised in Table 1.2 of the WRP.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>organisations with respect to Indigenous social, cultural, spiritual and</td>
<td>It was of high importance that the consultation process was culturally appropriate. Traditional Owners that were interviewed gave guidance on culturally appropriate venues within towns, cultural protocols to be followed and culturally appropriate communication techniques. Eight principles were developed to assist with this:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>customary objectives, and strategies for achieving these objectives</td>
<td>• respect for contemporary cultural framework</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• flexibility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• collaboration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• quality assurance</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• clear communication</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• building tangible outcomes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• inclusivity and accessibility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Indigenous data sovereignty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>These principles can be mapped against the MDBA Part 14 Guidelines and Best Practice Methods employed are outlined in Appendix A (Table 3).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>That the consultation had regard to the views of relevant Indigenous</td>
<td>NSW Department of Industry followed cultural protocols to ensure active and informed participation of Indigenous people.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>organisations with respect to encouragement of active and informed</td>
<td>In the First Nations Consultation, the Gomeroi people were</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>participation of Indigenous people</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Culturally appropriate consultation required Senior Traditional Owners to be appointed through a Nation Organiser (NBAN) and be interviewed prior to other stakeholders. In this interview they were encouraged to provide the department with guidance about how they would like the interview conducted, including choice of venue, food, recording options and a walk ‘On Country’. A stakeholder list was developed and the wider Gomeroi community were invited to participate in workshops, where Traditional Owners were invited to give input on the identified risks, objectives and outcomes based on their water-dependent values and uses. These workshops were also a platform to give information about the water planning process and build a relationship for future consultation.

More detail on the engagement process is Chapter 1, Section 1.7.1 of the WRP and and Appendix A.

The First Nation consultation determined that the Gomeroi Nation see the following as their main risks to water-dependent values and uses:

- inequity across the system
- agricultural land use, particularly cotton and cattle
- infrastructure controlled flows
- illegal activity and monitoring and compliance practices
- governance and capacity
- government communications
- government policy and practices
- conflicting value systems between themselves, government and the wider community
- consultation practices
- mining
- pest animals and invasive species
- pollution
- access issues and fencing

The risks to Indigenous Values and Uses are outline in Table 1.3 of the WRP and Section 7.2 of Appendix A.

Throughout the First Nations consultation, cultural flows was a key theme as cultural practices and events are supported by cultural flows. The Gomeroi people would also like to receive information about cultural flows including application, policies and their release.

The consultation determined that the Gomeroi people would like to see cultural flows allocated to the Gomeroi people, distinct to environmental flows, for the purpose of cultural practices and events, and to support fishing practices and fish breeding. They would also like to be given information about cultural flows including applications, policies and their release and would like to be employed to conduct research.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Outcome</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>on the benefits and reach of these flows. NSW Department of Industry is working with MDBA and NBAN and consultations to codify cultural flows into the relevant WSPs will be continued. Additional consultation is underway as part of the Basin Plan commitments package following the Basin Plan Amendment deal. This is discussed in section 1.7.1 of the WRP and Appendix A.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3.2 Ngiyampaa Nation

The Ngiyampaa Nation boundaries cross over four surface water and three groundwater WRP areas. The consultation process adhered to the Murray–Darling Basin Plan Part 14 Guidelines for meeting Basin Plan Chapter 10 requirements. The process was underpinned by eight principles for culturally appropriate consultation:

- respect for the contemporary cultural framework
- flexibility
- collaboration
- quality assurance
- clear communication
- building tangible outcomes
- inclusivity and accessibility
- Indigenous data sovereignty.

3.2.1 Face-to-face interviews

A series of face-to-face interviews was undertaken with senior Traditional Owners from the Ngiyampaa Nation in June 2018. Participants were drawn from three categories – grassroots, Native Title applicants and suggestions from other interview participants. Eleven Traditional Owners participated in these interviews. They represented their own family groups and spoke for a broad range of communities and different areas of Ngiyampaa Nation. The interviews assisted in formulating the discussion undertaken and cultural protocols to follow in the workshops held in July 2018.

The process involved in identifying Senior Traditional Owners and the questions they were asked can be reviewed in detail in Appendix B.

3.2.2 Workshops

Following on from the face-to-face interviews, First Nation consultation workshops were held in Lake Cargelligo, Ivanhoe and Cobar in July 2018. These workshops gave NSW Department of Industry the opportunity to engage with the wider Ngiyampaa community and capture their views and opinions on objectives, outcomes, values and uses for the Macquarie–Castlereagh WRP area. Common themes were used to guide discussion in the workshops. These were established during the face-to-face interviews and included:

- healthy Country and people
- cultural continuity and revival
- custodianship and jurisdiction
- equity, compensation and redress
- communication and partnerships.

A total of 17 people representing 17 family groups participated in the three workshops, including 17 Ngiyampaa Traditional Owners. Detailed workshop participant data can be viewed in Table 4 of the Ngiyampaa Nation Consultation Report. In addition to Ngiyampaa participants representatives from Northern Basin Aboriginal Nations, NSW Department of Industry and OEH also attended the workshops.

As a result of this two-step consultation process Ngiyampaa Nation’s values and uses were identified. The risks to those values and uses were also acknowledged and these were further built on to develop objectives and outcomes for water management—see Appendix B.
3.2.3 Consultation outcomes

Successful consultation outcomes included a total of 23 Ngiyampaa people consulted, representing a broad set of families; the use of data agreements to safeguard First Nations Cultural Knowledge; engagement with a nation-based traditional governance model; and comprehensive findings. Participants gave positive feedback about new nation-based consultation processes. Recommendations for each phase suggest improvements for future consultations. The consultation with the Ngiyampaa Nation satisfied the Basin-Plan outcomes as demonstrated in Table 4 and described throughout Section 1 of the *Lachlan Surface Water WRP* and Appendix B.

Table 4. Ngiyampaa Nation consultation outcomes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Outcome</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Demonstrate that the WRP was developed in a way that had genuine regard to objectives and outcomes in respect of social, spiritual and cultural values and uses of the water resources by Aboriginal people.</td>
<td>NSW Department of Industry completed Nations consultation in conjunction with NBAN. The process developed objectives and outcomes that have respect for social, spiritual and cultural values and uses for water resources. An overview of the objectives and values are in Chapter 1 Section 1.2.3 Table 1.2 of the Lachlan WRP. Detailed objectives and outcomes in regards to the key themes can be found in Appendix B in Section 6.3.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>That consultation with relevant Indigenous organisations was undertaken, including with the Northern Murray–Darling Basin Aboriginal Nations (NBAN)</td>
<td>Consultation was undertaken with relevant Indigenous organisations such as NBAN and LALCs. NBAN played an key role in the consultation and were brought on-board to be nation organisers and had an important role in phases 3 and 4 of the process. They also advised on methods to ensure the consultation was culturally appropriate. NSW Department of Industry worked with NBAN to appoint a Nation Organiser to suggest appropriate Traditional Owners to engage with. NBAN representatives were present at all workshops. Development of the stakeholder list also involved a desktop analysis of external and internal governance structures, including Local Aboriginal Land Councils (LALCs), Aboriginal Medical Services (AMS), committees and social media groups. Further information on this is described throughout Appendix B.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>That the consultation had regard to the views of relevant Indigenous organisations with respect to 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 WRPA</td>
<td>Discussions on native title rights, native title claims and Indigenous Land Use Agreements and the Native Title Act 1993 in relation to the water resources of the Lachlan were held throughout the consultation. A letter was sent out to NTS Corp to advise on further consultations on country and how they would like to be engaged. Community WRP workshops were held (Table 11, Appendix B) and invitations were emailed to a wide range of people and organisations including Native Title applicants and claimants. There is one joint claim on Native Title register for Ngiyampaa nation with Ngemba, Wangaaypuwan and Wayilwan people.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
That the consultation had regard to the views of relevant Indigenous organisations with respect to registered Aboriginal heritage relating to the water resources of the WRPA

Local Aboriginal Lands Councils were invited via email, opportunities arose for them to speak of any listed sites on the heritage register throughout the workshop sessions.

That the consultation had regard to the views of relevant Indigenous organisations with respect to inclusion of Indigenous representation in the preparation and implementation of the plan

NSW Department of Industry directly engaged with NBAN to engage a Nation Organiser to suggest appropriate Traditional Owners to engage with. The consultation process utilised a representative from NBAN for the Ngiyampaa Nation.

Refer to Chapter 1, Section 1.7.1 of the Lachlan Surface Water WRP and Appendix B.

That the consultation had regard to the views of relevant Indigenous organisations with respect to Indigenous social, cultural, spiritual and customary objectives, and strategies for achieving these objectives

Appendix B in Section 6.3 details the various objectives that were identified with the suggested outcomes and also outlines strategies to achieve these outcomes. Objectives and values are summarised in Table 1.2 of the WRP.

It was of high importance that the various phases of the consultation process was culturally appropriate. Traditional Owners that were interviewed gave guidance on culturally appropriate venues within towns, cultural protocols to be followed and culturally appropriate communication techniques. Eight principles were developed to assist with this:

- respect for contemporary cultural framework
- flexibility
- collaboration
- quality assurance
- clear communication
- building tangible outcomes
- inclusivity and accessibility
- Indigenous data sovereignty

These principles can be mapped against the MDBA Part 14 Guidelines and Best Practice Methods employed are outlined in Appendix B.

That the consultation had regard to the views of relevant Indigenous organisations with respect to encouragement of active and informed participation of Indigenous people

NSW Department of Industry followed cultural protocols to ensure active and informed participation of Indigenous people.

In the First Nations Consultation, the Ngiyampaa people were encouraged to attend workshops in three different locations. Culturally appropriate consultation required Senior Traditional Owners to be appointed through a Nation Organiser (NBAN) and be interviewed prior to other stakeholders. In this interview they were encouraged to provide the department with guidance about how they would like the interview conducted, including choice of venue, food, recording options and a walk ‘On Country’. A stakeholder list was developed and the wider Ngiyampaa community were invited to participate in workshops, where Traditional Owners were invited to give input on the identified risks, objectives and outcomes based on their water-dependent values and uses. These workshops were also a platform to give information about the water planning process and build a relationship for future consultation.

More detail on the engagement process is Chapter 1, Section
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Answer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>That the consultation had regard to the views of relevant Indigenous organisations with respect to risks to Indigenous values and Indigenous uses arising from the use and management of the water resources of the water resource plan area?</td>
<td>The First Nation consultation determined that the Ngiyampaa Nation see the following as their main risks to water-dependent values and uses:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Large scale industrial practices, particularly in cotton and mining</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Inequitable water management practices</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- The control of flow through management practices and infrastructure</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Property ownership and fencing</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Lack of cultural awareness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Poor consultation practices</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Environmental degradation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Communication of information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>These are outlined in Section 6.2 of Appendix B along with the key impacts identified by the Ngiyampaa Nation. The risks to Indigenous Values and Uses are outline in Table 1.3 of the WRP.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>That the consultation have regard to the views of Indigenous people with respect to cultural flows?</td>
<td>Throughout the First Nations consultation, cultural flows was a key theme as cultural practices and events are supported by cultural flows. Fishing practices, breeding of fish and gathering of bush tucker are examples of these. The Ngiyampaa people would also like to receive information about cultural flows including application, policies and their release.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The consultation determined that the Ngiyampaa people would like to see the revival of their waterways to ensure the survival of their culture. These objectives are being partly met by a project with state Environmental Water bodies at Booberoi Creek, near Murrin Bridge. The Ngiyampaa are seeing real, measurable impacts there, as the creek comes back to life. In these projects, environmental water is being used to supplement allocated cultural flows as they can achieve similar outcomes. The Ngiyampaa would like to have a water allocation specifically for their Nation and its cultural needs. Their survival is, as it always has been, dependent on it.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Additional consultation is underway to determine the amount of water required for cultural flows so that the Department can include this in the Water Sharing Plans for each area. NSW Department of Industry is working with MDBA and NBAN and conversations will be continued to ensure that this progresses.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NSW Department of Industry is working with MDBA and NBAN and consultations to codify cultural flows into the relevant WSPs will be continued. This is discussed in section 1.7.1 of the WRP and Appendix B.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3.3 Ngemba Nation

Ngemba Nation boundaries cross over two surface water and two groundwater WRP areas. The consultation process adhered to the Murray–Darling Basin Plan Part 14 Guidelines for meeting Basin Plan Chapter 10 requirements. The process was underpinned by eight principles for culturally appropriate consultation:

- respect for the contemporary cultural framework
- flexibility
- collaboration
- quality assurance
- clear communication
- building tangible outcomes
- inclusivity and accessibility
- Indigenous data sovereignty.

3.3.1 Face–to–face interviews

A series of face-to-face interviews were undertaken with Senior Traditional Owners (TOs) from the Ngemba Nation in late August 2018. Senior TOs who participated in the face-to-face interviews were drawn from three categories – grassroots, Native Title applicants and suggestions from other interview participants. Eight TOs participated in these interviews. They represented their own family groups and spoke for a broad range of communities and different areas of Ngemba Nation. These interviews assisted in formulating the discussion undertaken in the workshops held in April 2018.

The process involved in identifying Senior TOs and the questions they were asked can be reviewed in detail in Appendix C once the consultation report is complete.

3.3.2 Workshops

Following on from the face-to-face interviews First Nation consultation workshops were held in Bourke and Brewarrina in early November 2018. These workshops provided NSW Department of Industry with the opportunity to engage with the wider Ngemba community and capture their views and opinions on objectives, outcomes, values and uses for the Macquarie–Castlereagh WRP area. Common themes were used to guide discussion in the workshops. These were established during the face-to-face interviews and included:

- water is life
- healthy Country and people
- cultural continuity and revival
- custodianship and jurisdiction
- compensation and redress
- management and control
- communication and partnerships.

Detailed workshop participant data can be viewed in Appendix C when the consultation report is finalised. In addition to Ngemba participants, representatives from Northern Basin Aboriginal Nations, NSW Department of Industry and OEH also attended the workshops.

As a result of this two-step consultation process Ngemba Nation’s values and uses were identified. The risks to those values and uses were also acknowledged and these were further built on to develop objectives and outcomes for water management (see Appendix C).
### 3.3.3 Consultation outcomes

NSW is yet to complete this consultation. Following consultation, a more detailed discussion of the objectives and outcomes for Aboriginal values and uses developed through this consultative process will be included in the Ngemba Nations Consultation Reports as Appendix C of Schedule C. Organisations including NSW Aboriginal Land Council, Local Aboriginal Land Councils, native title groups and other relevant Aboriginal organisations will also being consulted.

These reports aim to demonstrate that:

- The WRP was developed in a way that had genuine regard to objectives and outcomes in respect of social, spiritual and cultural values and uses of the water resources by Traditional Owners.
- Consultation with relevant Indigenous organisations was undertaken, including with the Northern Basin Aboriginal Nations and Murray Lower Darling Rivers Indigenous Nations.

In addition to consulting with Traditional Owners, the NSW Government consulted with several organisations (e.g. native title, LALCS), Murdi Paaki working group, MLDRIN and NBAN. This demonstrates that the consultation had regard to the views of:

- relevant Indigenous organisations with respect to inclusion of Indigenous representation in the preparation and implementation of the plan.
- relevant Indigenous organisations with respect to Indigenous social, cultural, spiritual and customary objectives, and strategies for achieving these objectives.
- relevant Indigenous organisations with respect to the encouragement of active and informed participation of Indigenous people.
- relevant Indigenous organisations with respect to risks to Indigenous values and Indigenous uses arising from the use and management of the water resources of the water resource plan area.
- Indigenous people with respect to cultural associations with the groundwater resources of this WRPA.

NSW will not be seeking Commonwealth accreditation of this plan until the Aboriginal consultation is completed.
3.4 Wailwan Nation

Wailwan Nation boundaries cross over one surface water and four groundwater WRP areas. The consultation process adhered to the Murray–Darling Basin Plan Part 14 Guidelines for meeting Basin Plan Chapter 10 requirements. The process will be underpinned by eight principles for culturally appropriate consultation:

- respect for the contemporary cultural framework
- flexibility
- collaboration
- quality assurance
- clear communication
- building tangible outcomes
- inclusivity and accessibility
- Indigenous data sovereignty.

3.4.1 Face-to-face interviews

A series of face-to-face interviews will be undertaken with Senior Traditional Owners (TOs) from the Wailwan Nation. Senior TOs who participate in the face-to-face interviews will be drawn from three categories – grassroots, Native Title applicants and suggestions from other interview participants. TOs will represent their own family groups and speak for a broad range of communities and different areas of Wailwan Nation. These interviews will assist in formulating the discussion undertaken in the workshops held.

The process involved in identifying Senior TOs and the questions they were asked can be reviewed in detail in Appendix D once the report has been finalised.

3.4.2 Workshops

Following on from the face-to-face interviews First Nation consultation, workshops will be held. These workshops will provide NSW Department of Industry with the opportunity to engage with the wider Wailwan community and capture their views and opinions on objectives, outcomes, values and uses for the Macquarie–Castlereagh WRP area. Common themes will be used to guide discussion in the workshops and will be established during the face-to-face interviews.

Detailed workshop participant data can be viewed in Appendix D once the consultation is complete and the report is finalised.

As a result of this two-step consultation process Wailwan Nation’s values and uses will be identified. The risks to those values and uses will also be acknowledged and will be further built on to develop objectives and outcomes for water management (see Appendix D).

3.4.3 Consultation outcomes

NSW is yet to complete this consultation. Following consultation, a more detailed discussion of the objectives and outcomes for Aboriginal values and uses developed through this consultative process will be included in the Wailwan Nations Consultation Reports as Appendix D of Schedule C. Organisations including NSW Aboriginal Land Council, Local Aboriginal Land Councils, native title groups and other relevant Aboriginal organisations will also being consulted.

These reports aim to demonstrate that:

- The WRP was developed in a way that had genuine regard to objectives and outcomes in respect of social, spiritual and cultural values and uses of the water resources by Traditional Owners.
Consultation with relevant Indigenous organisations was undertaken, including with the Northern Basin Aboriginal Nations and Murray Lower Darling Rivers Indigenous Nations.

In addition to consulting with Traditional Owners, the NSW Government consulted with several organisations (e.g. native title, LALCS) Murdi Paaki working group, MLDRIN and NBAN. This demonstrates that the consultation had regard to the views of:

- relevant Indigenous organisations with respect to inclusion of Indigenous representation in the preparation and implementation of the plan.
- relevant Indigenous organisations with respect to Indigenous social, cultural, spiritual and customary objectives, and strategies for achieving these objectives.
- relevant Indigenous organisations with respect to the encouragement of active and informed participation of Indigenous people.
- relevant Indigenous organisations with respect to risks to Indigenous values and Indigenous uses arising from the use and management of the water resources of the water resource plan area.
- Indigenous people with respect to cultural associations with the groundwater resources of this WRPA.

NSW will not be seeking Commonwealth accreditation of this plan until the Aboriginal consultation is completed.
3.5 Wiradjuri Nation

Wiradjuri Nation boundaries cross over four surface water and six groundwater WRP areas. The consultation process adhered to the Murray–Darling Basin Plan Part 14 Guidelines for meeting Basin Plan Chapter 10 requirements. The process will be underpinned by eight principles for culturally appropriate consultation:

- respect for the contemporary cultural framework
- flexibility
- collaboration
- quality assurance
- clear communication
- building tangible outcomes
- inclusivity and accessibility
- Indigenous data sovereignty.

3.5.1 Face-to-face interviews

A series of face-to-face interviews will be undertaken with Senior Traditional Owners (TOs) from the Wiradjuri Nation. At this stage all key Wiradjuri TO’s have not been interviewed and NSW Department of Industry are still in the process of making contact and interviewing all the key Traditional Owners of the Wiradjuri Nation. Senior TOs who participated in the face-to-face interviews will be drawn from three categories – grassroots, Native Title applicants and suggestions from other interview participants. TOs who participate in these interviews will represent their own family groups and speak for a broad range of communities and different areas of Wiradjuri Nation. These interviews will assist in formulating the discussion undertaken in the workshops to be held in November and December 2018.

The process involved in identifying Senior TOs and the questions they were asked can be reviewed in detail in Appendix E once the report becomes available.

3.5.2 Workshops

Following on from the face-to-face interviews, First Nation consultation workshops are to be held in Bathurst, Wellington, Dubbo, Cowra, Forbes, Condobolin, Euabalong, Narrandera, Darlington Point, Wagga Wagga, Albury and Tumut in November and December 2018. These workshops will provide NSW Department of Industry with the opportunity to engage with the wider Wiradjuri community and capture their views and opinions on objectives, outcomes, values and uses for the Macquarie—Castlereagh, Lachlan and Murrumbidgee WRP areas.

Common themes will be used to guide discussion in the workshops and will be established during the face-to-face interviews.

Detailed workshop participant data can be viewed in Appendix E once the consultation report has been completed.

As a result of this two-step consultation process, Wiradjuri Nation’s values and uses will be identified. The risks to those values and uses will also be explored and further built on to develop objectives and outcomes for water management (see Appendix E).

3.5.3 Consultation outcomes

NSW is yet to complete this consultation. Following consultation, a more detailed discussion of the objectives and outcomes for Aboriginal values and uses developed through this consultative process will be included in the Wiradjuri Nations Consultation Reports as Appendix E of Schedule C. Organisations including NSW Aboriginal Land Council, Local Aboriginal Land Councils, native title groups and other relevant Aboriginal organisations will also being consulted.
These reports aim to demonstrate that:

- The WRP was developed in a way that had genuine regard to objectives and outcomes in respect of social, spiritual and cultural values and uses of the water resources by Traditional Owners.

- Consultation with relevant Indigenous organisations was undertaken, including with the Northern Basin Aboriginal Nations and Murray Lower Darling Rivers Indigenous Nations.

In addition to consulting with Traditional Owners, the NSW Government consulted with several organisations (e.g. native title, LALCS) Murdi Paaki working group, MLDRIIN and NBAN. This demonstrates that the consultation had regard to the views of:

- relevant Indigenous organisations with respect to inclusion of Indigenous representation in the preparation and implementation of the plan.

- relevant Indigenous organisations with respect to Indigenous social, cultural, spiritual and customary objectives, and strategies for achieving these objectives.

- relevant Indigenous organisations with respect to the encouragement of active and informed participation of Indigenous people.

- relevant Indigenous organisations with respect to risks to Indigenous values and Indigenous uses arising from the use and management of the water resources of the water resource plan area.

- Indigenous people with respect to cultural associations with the groundwater resources of this WRPA.

NSW will not be seeking Commonwealth accreditation of this plan until the Aboriginal consultation is completed.
Appendix A. Gomeroi Nation Consultation Report
Appendix B. Ngiyampaa Nation Consultation Report
Appendix C. Ngemba Nation Consultation Report
Appendix D. Wailwan Nation Consultation Report
Appendix E. Wiradjuri Nation Consultation Report