



Australian Government

Department of Climate Change, Energy,
the Environment and Water

Committee on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Water Interests

Submission on the 2026 Murray—
Darling Basin Plan Review: discussion
paper

April 2026



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Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
GPO Box 3090 Canberra ACT 2601
Telephone 1800 900 090
Web dcceew.gov.au

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Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia and recognise their continuing connection to land, waters and Culture. We pay our respects to their Elders past and present.

1 Contents

1	Contents	3
2	Acknowledgement	4
3	Authors.....	5
4	Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property	6
5	About the Committee on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Water Interests	7
6	Progress to date	8
7	The Committee’s submission	9
	Overarching commentary.....	9
	First Nations disenfranchisement as part of the water crisis	10
	Partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in water management	11
	Water rights for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people	12
	Addressing climate change.....	13
	Use of Indigenous science and knowledge.....	14
	Stronger protections for the environment and cultural sites	15
8	Summary of recommendations.....	17

2 Acknowledgement

The Committee on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Water Interests (the Committee) wishes to acknowledge and thank the many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-run organisations, peak bodies and body corporates, as well as Traditional Owner groups, researchers, scientists, and individuals who have worked tirelessly to establish your own agreement making platforms with government, so you are able to have a 'seat at the table' and meaningfully advocate for land, food and water rights and interests.

The Committee encourages all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples to engage in the review of the Murray—Darling Basin Plan and other similar government processes to ensure diverse views and perspectives are heard.

3 Authors

The following members of the Committee developed this submission:

Ms Kay Blades (Chair)

Ms Bianca Lena (Deputy Chair)

Mr Nathan Brennan

Dr Kate Harriden

Mr Tony Jack

Ms Carol Martin

Mrs Ronni O'Donnell

Mr Charles O'Leary

Ms Sarah Wilcox

The Committee also wishes to acknowledge previous members who contributed knowledge and expertise, which informed the development of the [Insights Paper: Pathway to enduring recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People's water interests in national water reform initiatives](#). The water values, principles and actions in the Insights Paper should be considered when reviewing the Murray—Darling Basin Plan.

4 Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property

This submission contains Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property (ICIP) and is underpinned by the principle of Free, Prior and Informed consent (FPIC) in relation to ICIP, as set out in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The Committee is the owner of all ICIP in this submission. The Committee must be acknowledged as the owner of this submission in any use of it. Further, this submission must not be appropriated or used in any other way than its intended purpose without the consent of the Committee.

5 About the Committee on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Water Interests

The Committee was established in 2020 as a non-statutory advisory body playing a unique role in advising federal, state and territory governments on water reform initiatives occurring in Australia. It aims to elevate the cultural, spiritual, social, economic and environmental interests of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples within Australia's water policies, programs and legislation, to ultimately ensure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have enduring access to, ownership of, and management of water.

The Committee comprises of 9 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples with expertise across western and cultural water rights and interests, science and management, and policy and planning. Committee members do not represent any First Nation individual organisation or community group, or federal, state or territory government. However, where possible, the Committee seeks to have at least one member from each state and territory to bring their knowledge and experience at the local level to the national discussion.

The Committee is supported by a secretariat team within the First Nations Water Branch in the Australian Government Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water.

The Committee operates within, and promotes, an environment of truth-telling about the impacts of ongoing colonisation on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' water rights and interests. The Committee recognises that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have been advocating for an equal voice in Australia's water planning and management legislation for a very long time. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have never ceded sovereignty of their lands, waters and skies. It is the exclusive birth right of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to be supported to honour their cultural, spiritual, social, economic and environmental water interests.

More information about the Committee is available at [Committee on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Water Interests - DCCEEW](#).

6 Progress to date

Since colonisation, Australia's laws and policies related to water, such as the *Native Title Act 1993* (the Native Title Act), have disenfranchised and disempowered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples regarding their water rights and interests (refer Box 1).

The Committee acknowledges and thanks the many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples that have worked tirelessly to uphold their water rights and interests and their ongoing traditional physical connections as Australia's First Peoples. There has been a steady increase in advocacy efforts, but there is still much that needs to be achieved before Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are supported by all levels of government to honour their cultural, spiritual, social, economic and environmental water interests.

The Committee has developed a living, historical truth-telling representation of Australia's water management laws and policies and our advocacy efforts are to ensure that these are not forgotten. As a living document, the timeline will be updated annually at the following webpage to capture new achievements as they come to light: [Committee on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Water Interests - DCCEEW](#).

The Committee's ongoing efforts includes working with the Australian Government to elevate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander water rights and interests in a new National Water Agreement (NWA), as well as implementation of Closing the Gap Target 15 (*'Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People maintain a distinctive cultural, spiritual, physical and economic relationship with their land and waters'*) and the Aboriginal Water Entitlements Program, among other things. Under the governance arrangements for the new draft NWA, the Committee looks forward to an ongoing role in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the NWA.

More information on these bodies of work can be found at [First Nations water policy - DCCEEW](#).

Box 1: Native Title Act

The Native Title Act reinforces Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' exclusion from water markets.

Native title holders' use of water is **non-exclusive**: water can be used, but others cannot be stopped from using it. This is a barrier to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples caring for Country by preventing over-extraction and use for purposes that otherwise cause environmental degradation.

Native title holders **cannot use water commercially**. It can be used for cultural, spiritual, domestic and subsistence purposes, but not for economic or trade purposes. This is a barrier to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' economic participation.

Native title holders **do not have legal authority to negotiate on water use or allocation**. Native title land used for mining can generate an income stream and provide native title holders with agency around land use via Indigenous Land Use Agreements. However, native title holders have no statutory right to insist on negotiations over water allocations, despite allocations potentially impacting areas of cultural, spiritual, social, economic and environmental interest.

In relation to water, the Native Title Act does not enable self-determination or economic development. This conflicts with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).

7 The Committee's submission

The Committee welcomes the opportunity to provide a submission on the 2026 Murray—Darling Basin (Basin) Plan Review: discussion paper (the discussion paper). The Committee understands that the discussion paper sets out the issues to be explored through the 2026 Murray—Darling Basin Plan Review (the Basin Plan Review) to provide stakeholders with the opportunity to shape the development of recommendations for how the Murray—Darling Basin Plan (the Basin Plan) and water management can be improved.

This submission aims to elevate the water rights and interests of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in water policy by recommending that these rights and interests are recognised and embedded throughout a renewed Basin Plan. The submission represents the Committee's views related to the discussion paper and reserves the right to further submissions should further consultation be undertaken.

The Committee understands that the Murray—Darling Basin Authority (the Authority) is taking an integrated approach to the review, given the reviews of the *Water Act 2007* (Cth) and the Inspector-General of Water Compliance are also underway in 2026.

The Committee encourages other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and organisation to provide submissions as part of this process.

Overarching commentary

The Committee notes that the main interaction between the Basin Plan and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' water interests (beyond the broad purpose of protecting the environment) relates to the Basin Plan's requirement to consider Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' interests in water planning. The Committee commends the discussion paper for acknowledging that Basin Plan outcomes do not meet the Basin Plan's legislated purpose of representing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' rights and interests in water management, and that this gap will be addressed through the Basin Plan Review.

The Basin Plan does not provide water rights or entitlements to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. While this submission touches on issues in this space, it is understood that there are limited levers to enable the provision of rights in the Basin Plan. However, the disparity between the use of First Nations and non-First Nations water rights and allocations can still be acknowledged in the Basin Plan, as well as support for greater First Nations ownership of water.

The Committee supports the discussion paper's recognition that Basin rivers and wetlands have been a source of life, culture and connection for Basin Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples for tens of thousands of years.

The discussion paper acknowledges that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have been excluded from Basin management. The system has not supported Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in many ways, and Country is still not in a healthy state. The Committee supports this truth-telling and believes that the revised Basin Plan should more explicitly recognise these issues.

The discussion paper demonstrates clear progress in understanding the importance of 'including' Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. It would benefit from acknowledging that the management system would fundamentally need to be reshaped in order to provide an appropriate level of authority for Basin Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

The Committee would like to acknowledge the substantial engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and others by the Authority through this process. The Committee is of the view

that the discussion paper generally reflects what Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have asked for in these discussions but that ultimately Basin Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples need to confirm this. The Authority is commended on its work to develop relationships with Basin Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples; the Authority's improved competency and capacity to work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people is evident in this discussion paper.

The Committee notes that there is a significant amount of national water policy reforms underway, including the review of the *Water Act 2007 (Cth)* and development of a new National Water Agreement. To ensure policy coherence and line-of-sight between national agreements, legislation and Basin plans and frameworks, the Committee encourages the Basin Plan Review to systematically consider and clearly articulate to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples how the Basin Plan is or will align with these reforms. This may identify priority issues that have not yet been considered.

Recommendation 1: Systematically consider and clearly articulate to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples how the Basin Plan is aligning with – or will align with – the review of the *Water Act 2007 (Cth)* and the development of a new National Water Agreement.

First Nations disenfranchisement as part of the water crisis

It is widely understood that the Basin Plan was developed in response to a 'national water crisis' revealed by the Millennium Drought related to insufficient allocation of water to the environment and communities. There is more limited recognition that this is due to the extractive and human-focused understanding of water embedded in the colonial water system.

However, it is not well recognised – broadly or in the discussion paper – that there is also a national water crisis in terms of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's disenfranchisement in water policy. The customary, unceded rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people continue to be subsumed by colonial values, beliefs, laws and science. First Nations water values and uses are very rarely acknowledged.

For millennia, Australia was solely populated by Australia's First Peoples, yet now Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people represent only 3.8 per cent¹ of the population and face the most disadvantage and exclusion in Australian society. This exclusion extends to ownership of and access to water. Despite never ceding land and water and representing 3.8 per cent of the population, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples own and control less than 0.2 per cent of Australia's surface water entitlements. This is notwithstanding 20 per cent of the Basin's consumptive water having been recovered by the Commonwealth since the Basin Plan was enacted.

The Committee is of the view that the renewed Basin Plan should more clearly frame First Nations exclusion from water rights as a historic or systemic injustice requiring redress. This is a critical part of truth-telling.

¹ The 2021 census shows that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples comprise of 3.8 per cent of Australia's population.

Recommendation 2: Strengthen the acknowledgement of the historic and systemic injustice faced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, who have been systematically and structurally excluded from water ownership, allocation and governance since colonisation.

Partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in water management

The Committee notes that the discussion paper includes a focus on advancing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' rights and interests, including via partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in water management. It states that a healthy working Basin needs collaboration and coordination that includes Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

The Committee supports the emphasis on actively involving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in water and land management rather than 'consulting'. However, the Committee believes that the revised Basin Plan should move further towards shared decision-making – where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have a defined role in determining outcomes and have equal decision-making authority, not just the ability to influence them. The Committee notes that shared decision-making in the Basin was supported in the Productivity Commission Inquiry into the Murray–Darling Basin Plan: Implementation Review 2023.

“Aboriginal leadership needs to be central – not peripheral – to decisions about what comes next for the Murray–Darling Basin.”
CAWI member, 2026.

The Committee supports the discussion paper's proposal to include new principles to encourage Basin governments to support and respect FPIC, Indigenous Data Sovereignty and ICIP; ensure culturally safe and enabling spaces for participation; and ethically include Indigenous sciences.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have made clear that they must be involved in all aspects of water management. The Committee emphasises that this involvement must extend beyond planning to include the stages of implementation, monitoring, reporting and evaluation (MER). This requires not only direct participation but also the inclusion of First Nations–led measures, targets and evaluative methodologies within the MER framework for the Basin Plan but also in Water Resource Plans, ensuring progress and impacts are tracked and tracked through a cultural lens. This is critical to ensuring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have the necessary information to provide informed inputs into decision-making. These measures must be developed by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples themselves to allow for non-Western approaches and to capture cultural, spiritual, social, economic and environmental considerations. The Committee encourages the Basin Plan Review to consider how it can work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to use this evaluative information to better share information around the needs of, and impacts to, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Recommendation 3: Move towards shared decision-making with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in water management.

Recommendation 4: Include First Nations–led measures, targets and evaluative methodologies within the MER framework for the Basin Plan and Water Resource Plans, ensuring progress and impacts are tracked.

Recommendation 5: Consider how the Murray—Darling Basin Authority can work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to use this evaluative information collected in the MER Framework and Water Resource Plans to better share information around the needs of, and impacts to, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Addressing disenfranchisement and working in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people both require resourcing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to be involved in the system. This means better water literacy and a deeper capability in western water resource management for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people – so that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people can more effectively access and navigate the system – and cultural capability for others. This should be recognised in the revised Basin Plan and will go some way to addressing equity issues in the current system.

“We can’t keep showing up to processes under-resourced, expected to respond to highly technical systems without the same level of support that governments and industry have.”
CAWI member, 2026.

The discussion paper notes the importance of river and management activities such as pest management, erosion control and revegetation. The Committee has heard Indigenous Rangers’ aspirations to be more involved in catchment management, and supports these activities being undertaken by Rangers.

Recommendation 6: Recognise the importance of resourcing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in terms of water literacy and the complex water management system in the Murray—Darling Basin.

Water rights for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

While shared decision-making would be a significant improvement on current practices in the Basin and elsewhere, without ownership of water Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are still operating at the edges of water management.

Basin water markets were predominantly allocated to non-First Nations users before the implementation of the Basin Plan in 2012. Australian Government initiatives underway are making progress to address this inequity in engagement in water markets. For example:

- the Cultural Flows Planning for Cultural Economies program has committed \$19.4 million to 58 projects across the Murray—Darling Basin to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to plan for and develop the skills needed to access, manage and own water in the Murray—Darling Basin

- the \$100 million Basin Aboriginal Water Entitlements Program (AWEP) will procure water to make entitlements available to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to own and manage water for cultural, social, economic, environmental, and spiritual purposes
- once established, the Basin First Nations enduring water holder (to be established as a charitable trust – which the Committee supports) will then ‘hold’ the water entitlements received through the AWEP so that they are owned, managed, and governed in ways that reflect First Nations cultural values, priorities and desired outcomes.

The Committee commends the Australian Government for co-designing these initiatives with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people but encourages all governments to expand programs of these types to return water to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. More must be done to ensure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are able to own and manage water.

The Committee recommends that the revised Basin Plan aims to align with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), noting *Article 3 Indigenous Peoples have the right to self-determination – to determine and develop priorities and strategies for the development or use of their lands or territories and other resources; and Article 32(1) – the right to own, develop, control and use the lands and territories, including the total environment of the lands, air, waters, coastal seas, sea-ice flora, fauna and other resources that they possess by reason of traditional ownership or other traditional occupation or use ... Article 26(2)*. To assist Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to see how UNDRIP principles have been applied in the Basin Plan (and also for the purposes of the broader review of the *Water Act 2007*), consideration should be given on development of a public document which clearly articulates how the Basin Plan aligns with each clause of the UNDRIP.

It is noted that government progress in driving equity in water entitlements will be measured through the Closing the Gap Inland Water Target (Target 15c), which aims to increase Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples’ legal rights and interests in inland water bodies. The Committee is a member of the Inland Waters Target Working Group, co-chaired by the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) and the National Native Title Council.

Recommendation 7: Acknowledge the continuing inequity in access to and ownership of water by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the Basin Plan.

Recommendation 8: Embed UNDRIP principles in the revised Basin Plan and articulate how the Basin Plan aligns with each clause of the UNDRIP.

Addressing climate change

Climate change will continue to affect all Basin ecosystems severely through flooding, drought and water source contamination, affecting biodiversity and ecosystem processes, as well as cultural practices. We know that hotter, drier climates often drive increased usage of groundwater sources, further exacerbating risks to water security and quality.

The discussion paper states that the Authority is committed to examining how the Basin Plan can more effectively respond to climate change. The Committee supports this endeavour given that for some Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, climate change is evidence of ongoing colonisation

and disenfranchisement², and that the impacts of climate change disproportionately impact on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people due to the relationship with Country.

The Committee understands that the Authority is considering introducing minimum requirements to plan for critical human water needs during times of low water availability, which will increase in frequency and severity with climate change. The Committee note that this will drive better water security in remote First Nations communities in the Basin. This supports Closing the Gap Target 9b, which states that by 2031 First Nations households are to receive essential services, including safe drinking water, at relevant state or territory jurisdictional standards.

Such standards more widely applied would benefit First Nations communities nationally, particularly remote First Nations communities experiencing issues with poor domestic water quality and service standards. There is no reason why Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples outside the Basin should not benefit from a revised Basin Plan.

It is recommended that the renewed Basin Plan include an overarching statement that affirms that Basin water management must support the delivery of safe and reliable drinking water to communities, and recognise that remote communities experience disproportionate water service risks.

The Committee notes differing approaches to addressing climate change risks in Water Resource Plans and encourages a consistent, Basin-wide approach, recognising that climate impacts cross borders. This would establish a common baseline for assessing increasing climate risks and implementing mitigation and adaptation measures.

Recommendation 9: Affirm that Murray—Darling Basin water management must enable safe and reliable drinking water for communities, with minimum standards for critical human need during dry periods.

Recommendation 10: Encourage Water Resource Plans to apply a consistent, Basin-wide approach to addressing climate changes risks, recognising that climate impacts cross borders.

Use of Indigenous science and knowledge

The need for improved land management and investment in science, knowledge and monitoring to supplement water management is noted in the discussion paper. The Committee agrees with the discussion paper statement that First Nations knowledge has been historically excluded from water management.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' science and knowledge of environmental practices such as cultural fire management can be used to inform western land management, which will benefit the Basin more broadly.

This knowledge and cultural definitions of river and land health should be embedded into the renewed Basin Plan's measures of environmental health. The measures currently focus on western

² Climate change and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health, Discussion Paper. Lowitja Institute; Melbourne, Australia: 2021.

ecological indicators. From Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' perspective, a healthy river is also about:

- being able to practice culture
- accessing traditional foods
- teaching young people
- feeling safe on Country.

In this context, it is worth noting that for some Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, water is considered sentient and having life.

In order to incorporate this knowledge and definitions, Indigenous sciences must be properly funded, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people must be involved in designing monitoring programs, analysing and evaluating the resulting data and decision making based on that evaluation/analysis. Acknowledgement of the philosophical basis of these knowledge systems is required in the revised Plan.

With more funding and use of Indigenous science and knowledges, the Committee expects that the knowledge base that informs the Basin Plan will improve considerably.

Recommendation 11: Increase acknowledgment and use of Indigenous science and knowledges in land and water management and measures of success of the Basin Plan.

Stronger protections for the environment and cultural sites

Water trade, infrastructure and flow decisions impact places of deep cultural significance for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. As well as the Basin Plan protecting the environment, the revised Basin Plan should include stronger protections for cultural sites and heritage. Shared decision-making with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people will support this.

The Committee notes that river and floodplain connectivity should be elevated to a non-negotiable in the revised Basin Plan to work towards further protecting the system, not just managing decline. It is noted that the importance of connectivity is included in the discussion paper.

The Committee suggests that the revised Basin Plan clearly states the requirement for maintenance of current infrastructure (including removal where appropriate) and a commitment to avoiding more infrastructure on Basin rivers, as required in Indigenous water design principles.

“Reduced connectivity, decreased water quality and fish deaths are serious. But for us, they are not just technical problems. They are about whether Country is alive or not. And when Country is not well, our people are not well.” CAWI member, 2026.

The discussion paper includes references to environmental flows being linked to benefits for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Environmental flows benefit everyone: improving the health of Country will improve the health of all people. Benefits for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are not a requirement for the release of environmental flows. Cultural flows are more generally called for by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as they can deliver a variety of benefits beyond environmental value.

The Committee acknowledges that the Basin Plan supports the belief that cultural flows will benefit Traditional Owners, and that water resource plans '*must be prepared having regard to the views of Indigenous people with respect to cultural flows*'. This requirement must be strengthened in the revised Basin Plan to allow Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to better advocate for water interests and Country. First Nations participation in developing water resource plans must be mandatory. Proper, effective and meaningful enforcement procedures for the development and implementation of water resource plans must be clearly articulated in the revised Basin Plan.

Recommendation 12: Strengthen the requirement for the development and implementation of water resource plans to consider Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples water interests and be co-designed with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

8 Summary of recommendations

The Committee makes the following recommendations to consider in developing the revised Basin Plan:

- Recommendation 1: Systematically consider and clearly articulate to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples how the Basin Plan is aligning with – or will align with – the review of the *Water Act 2007* (Cth) and the development of a new National Water Agreement.
- Recommendation 2: Strengthen the acknowledgement of the historic and systemic injustice faced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, who have been systematically and structurally excluded from water ownership, allocation and governance since colonisation.
- Recommendation 3: Move towards shared decision-making with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in water management.
- Recommendation 4: Include First Nations-led measures, targets and evaluative methodologies within the MER framework for the Basin Plan and Water Resource Plans, ensuring progress and impacts are tracked.
- Recommendation 5: Consider how the Murray—Darling Basin Authority can work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to use this evaluative information collected in the MER Framework and Water Resource Plans to better share information around the needs of, and impacts to, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.
- Recommendation 6: Recognise the importance of resourcing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in terms of water literacy and the complex water management system in the Murray—Darling Basin.
- Recommendation 7: Acknowledge the continuing inequity in access to and ownership of water by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the Basin Plan.
- Recommendation 8: Embed UNDRIP principles in the revised Basin Plan and articulate how the Basin Plan aligns with each clause of the UNDRIP.
- Recommendation 9: Affirm that Murray—Darling Basin water management must enable safe and reliable drinking water for communities, with minimum standards for critical human need during dry periods.
- Recommendation 10: Encourage Water Resource Plans to apply a consistent, Basin-wide approach to addressing climate changes risks, recognising that climate impacts cross borders.
- Recommendation 11: Increase acknowledgment and use of Indigenous science and knowledges in land and water management and measures of success of the Basin Plan.
- Recommendation 12: Strengthen the requirement for the development and implementation of water resource plans to consider Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples water interests and be co-designed with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

