



Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder Science Program

Services available for tender

There are 3 service categories available for suppliers to submit a tender

Tenderers need to assemble a consortium including roles to support First Nations science and knowledge

1

Knowledge exchange (1 contract)

First Nations Knowledge Broker

One lead organisation with a consortium team to develop and implement a 5-year knowledge exchange, communication and engagement plan outlining the activities to be undertaken. The First Nations Knowledge Broker to lead First Nations activities and Cultural network.

2

Basin-scale (1 contract)

Basin-scale Cultural Outcomes Theme Lead

One lead organisation with a consortium team to develop and implement a 5-year Basin-scale evaluation and research plan across the themes of fish, birds, vegetation, river connectivity, and a new theme, focusing on Cultural Outcomes. The Basin-scale Cultural Outcomes Theme Lead to lead First Nations knowledge and science.

3

Area-scale (up to 10 contracts)

Up to 10 lead organisations with consortium teams to develop and implement 5-year monitoring, evaluation and research (MER) plans across 10 Areas listed below. In the tender submission suppliers will need to outline their approach to working with First Nations people to identify Cultural Advisor or Liaison roles.

Cultural Advisor or Liaison roles

- | | |
|---|------------------------------|
| Border, Barwon and Namoi | Lower Balonne |
| Darling and Warrego | Lower Murray and Coorong , |
| Goulburn River and Northern Tributaries | Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth |
| Gwydir | Macquarie River and Marshes |
| Lachlan | Mid-Murray |

The preferred model across the 3 services categories is a consortium approach led by a suitably qualified organisations with partner agencies including First Nations people and/or organisations.

Requirements for Tenders

All Tenderers will be required to show a demonstrated commitment to including First Nations science and knowledge and increasing First Nations participation in the program.

This will be assessed through:

An Indigenous Participation Plan detailing how the Tenderers meet the requirements for the Commonwealth's Indigenous Procurement Policy (IPP) for significant procurements.

At a minimum, tenderers will be required to demonstrate:

their current rate of First Nations employment and First Nations supplier use

their commitment to First Nations participation (example activities can be found in the IPP)

how the Tenderer will ensure that it will deliver significant Indigenous employment or Indigenous supplier use outcomes in that Remote Area, if any part of the Contract will be delivered in a Remote Area,

Tenderers will also be required to show a demonstrated:

understanding of the issues affecting First Nations people, in relation to water management in the Murray Darling Basin

ability to communicate sensitively and effectively with First Nations people

ability to develop trusted relationships with First Nations people and facilitate First Nations participation in relevant research activities

Contracting
(June - August 2023)

Strategy Development
(September – December 2023)

Consultation and Planning
(January – March 2024)

Plan Development and Approval
(April - June 2024)

Knowledge Exchange

First Nations Knowledge Broker

The provider will develop:

- Program First Nations MER Strategy
- Program Branding and Acknowledgement Guide
- Program Knowledge Exchange, Communication and Engagement Strategy

Provider to consult, develop and finalise Knowledge Exchange, Communication and Engagement Plan, including First Nations approach and activities to facilitate collaboration of First Nations science and knowledge across the Program.

Minimum 30% funding for First Nations activities will be required across the knowledge exchange contract

Basin-scale

First Nations Cultural Outcomes Theme Lead

The provider will develop:

- Program Research Priorities Strategy
- Program Data Management Strategy
- Basin Evaluation approach, including Thematic approaches

Provider to consult, develop and finalise Evaluation and Research Plan, including First Nations approach and activities to embed First Nations science and knowledge into research, evaluation and adaptive management.

Minimum 10% funding for First Nations activities will be required across the Basin-scale contract

Area-scale (x10)

Cultural Adviser Or Cultural Liaison roles (to be identified)

The providers will work with the Knowledge Exchange Project and Basin-scale Project providers to contribute to the Development of Program Strategies.

Providers to consult, develop and finalise Monitoring Evaluation Research Plans (x10), including First Nations approach and activities to include First Nations MER needs, ensure appropriate First Nations consultation and participation and allow for fostering and developing First Nations MER capability, skills transfer, knowledge sharing and increased cultural awareness across all parties.

Minimum 10% funding for First Nations activities will be required across the Area-scale contract