

Working with communities to make decisions



Communities are at the heart of the planning and implementation of the Reconnecting River Country Program.

The program has been developed, and will continue to be developed, based on extensive feedback from the local community and using the best available and most recent science and modelling.

It focuses on delivering local community benefits as part of the NSW Government’s continued commitment to delivering sensible, community driven Murray-Darling Basin Plan outcomes.

The program provides an opportunity to relax constraints in the river system (physical, operational or policy) to deliver water for the environment more flexibly.

This flexibility is critical to delivering environmental flows where and when they are needed to support a healthier system.

How we are engaging with communities

Throughout the process there will be opportunities for stakeholders to provide input, seek information, offer feedback, raise questions and engage with the team developing and delivering the program.

We are engaging with private and public landholders, First Nations people, local communities, peak body groups and local councils on key aspects of the program, including flow options and impact mitigation measures.



From 2021, communities will have the opportunity to provide input into:



Identifying preferred river flow options.



Developing a negotiating framework to facilitate discussions and agreements with landholders.



Developing the suite of mitigation tools that will provide fair and just compensation to affected landholders.

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Next steps

As part of a collaborative approach to program development we are reaching out to stakeholders to:

- provide updates on program progress
- discuss program benefits – economic, social, cultural and environmental
- seek feedback on flow options and discuss frequency, timing and duration
- continue conversations about property-scale inundation mapping and appropriate mitigation measures
- discuss the feedback received on several key aspects of the program, such as the proposed Landholder Negotiation Scheme and Impact Management Toolbox
- highlight several useful tools to help stakeholders find out more about the program and provide input into its development.

Acknowledgement

The Department of Planning and Environment acknowledges we stand on Aboriginal land. We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land, and show our respect for Elders past, present and emerging through thoughtful and collaborative approaches to our work, seeking to demonstrate our ongoing commitment to providing places in which Aboriginal people are included socially, culturally and economically.

Find out more

To find out more about upcoming consultation opportunities please contact us or get in touch with your local engagement officer.

- visit dpie.nsw.gov.au/reconnecting-river-country-program
- phone [1300 081 047](tel:1300081047)
- email winsw.engagement@dpie.nsw.gov.au
- sign up for [program updates](#)

