



MURRAWARRI NATION

Office of the Chairperson

1/11/2023

RESPONSE TO THE COMMITTEES ADDITIONAL QUESTION ON NOTICE, EMAILED ON 01/11/2023

The Question:

The Committee has provided an Additional Question on Notice, as follows:

1. As part of the PC's Interim Report on its implementation review of the Murray-Darling Basin Plan, the PC's interim recommendation (see [rec 5.1](#)) is that the MDBA:
 - *consider – in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people – the merits of establishing a new Basin-wide body to represent Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's water interest in Basin Plan decision-making.*

Can you provide your perspectives on whether the PC's recommendation is feasible, likely to be supported, and the extent to which it will lead to more effective and genuine First Nation participation in Basin Plan decision-making compared to current arrangements?

Murrawarri Nations Response:

As the Chairperson of the Murrawarri Peoples Council, I offer the following response regarding the question on behalf of the Murrawarri Nation.

The Murrawarri Nation do not believe that such a body would be effective, given there are over 40 separate Sovereign First Nations within the Murray Darling Basin with their own Laws, Customs and Authorities.

The reason for our position is no other Nation or person can speak on our behalf. Our Tjukapa and our Nations own Constitution and Legislation forbids us to speak for, or on behalf of other First Nations unless we have their permission to do so, or they for our Nation.

Speaking on behalf of the Murrawarri Nation, we would very much like to work directly with the Commonwealth and State Governments to achieve our Aspirations and Objectives in the water space, which is set out in our attached Sovereign Nation Plan.

We believe that this approach would be more effective and genuine because of the many different Laws and Customs of the many First Nations of the Murray darling Basin. We believe that it would also negate the issues around the question that Senator Davies asked of me in the hearing around conflict areas.

Therefore, the Murrawarri Nation would not support such a recommendation, but to encourage direct First Nations collaborative decision-making processes with individual Nations or where First Nations come together to form their own regional alliances, we encourage the Murray darling Basin Authority to work with those alliances.

Thanking You very much

Frederick Arnold Hooper
Chairman,
Murrawarri Peoples Council