

## Murray-Darling Basin Aboriginal Water Entitlements Program - Chronology

Date	High Level	Detail
7 May 2018	Basin Plan Commitment Package Commitment 3ci	<p><i>“Funding Commitment for Indigenous investment on water involving: <b>Commitment of \$40 million over four years to administer through the Indigenous Land Corporation (or another suitable organisation) a program to support Basin Indigenous communities investment in cultural and economic water entitlement and associated planning activities.</b> Under the program, the \$40 million would be allocated between the northern Basin and the southern Basin (i.e. \$20 million each). Arrangements for delivery will be settled in 2018.”</i></p>
Interim	Program initial development	<p>Development of delivery options.            Consultation with indigenous organisations across the Basin on expectations and views on proposed program. Liaison with the Indigenous Land Corporation.</p>
1 February 2019	Legislative changes to expand the Indigenous Land Corporation (now Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation)	<p>Legislation relating to the IL(S)C came into effect on 1 February 2019. The ILSC’s purpose, as defined in section 191B of the amended <i>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act</i>, is to assist Aboriginal persons and Torres Strait Islanders to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• acquire land and water-related rights; and</li> <li>• manage indigenous-held land and indigenous waters;</li> </ul> <p>to provide economic, environmental, social, or cultural benefits for Aboriginal persons and Torres Strait Islanders.</p>
7 April 2019	Approval of approach	<p>Former Minister for Water agreement to ILSC delivering the program.</p>
Interim to February 2020	Negotiation on program arrangements with the ILSC and indigenous stakeholders	<p>Discussions with the ILSC on program arrangements and negotiations on an associated funding agreement.            Continued discussions with peak Indigenous groups (NBAN and MLDRIN).</p>
Interim to September 2020	Investigation into alternative arrangements	<p>Renewed discussions with Indigenous peak bodies on alternative delivery arrangements to meet their needs, including providing for long-term benefits beyond the life of the program funding.            Continuing discussions with ILSC and National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA), Murray Lower Darling Rivers Indigenous Nations (MLDRIN) and Northern Basin Aboriginal Nations (NBAN). COVID19 slows broader consultation.</p> <p>Discussions with the ILSC on potential alternative delivery arrangements it could provide under its remit. Investigation into alternative delivery models in accordance with indigenous representatives’ desires including preliminary consultations with NIAA, ILSC, NBAN, MLDRIN and others.</p>
4 September 2020	Murray-Darling Basin Communities Investment Package	<p>Commitment for supporting First Nations Australians to play an active role in river health, including <i>‘Agree the framework for implementing the \$40 million Aboriginal water entitlements program with Aboriginal communities.’</i> The timeframe for this action is quarter one 2021.</p>