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Murray-Darling Basin Indigenous
 River Rangers Program

# Murray-Darling Basin Indigenous River Rangers Program

To mark World Ranger Day, in July 2021, the Australian Government announced the establishment of five new Indigenous river ranger groups, following applications to the Murray-Darling Basin Indigenous River Rangers grant round.

The $3.1 million program empowers Indigenous organisations to improve waterway health, manage country and sustain the Basin’s valuable environmental assets. The rangers, ranger coordinators and support staff will use their knowledge and connection to country to support environmental and cultural outcomes across the breadth of the Basin. The new rangers will begin working in mid-2021 for a period of 12 months.

More detail is available below on the five successful organisations and ways in which they will improve cultural and environment waterway health.

## Profiles of Murray-Darling Basin Indigenous River Rangers Organisations

### Border Ranges Contractors Pty Ltd

The Toomelah Boggabilla River Rangers Project will engage a team of Indigenous rangers to work on priority areas of heavily degraded riparian land adjacent to the Macintyre and Dumaresq Rivers in the Toomelah and Boggabilla area, on the NSW–Queensland border. The rangers will regenerate native plants that provide habitat for rare and threatened animals vital to the health of the local river system, including through removal of exotic weeds that support introduced pests. The new ranger group will be supported by the Northern Gomeroi Aboriginal Corporation, the Githabul Rangers, the Commonwealth Environmental Water Office and other key stakeholders. The project will incorporate traditional and contemporary land management practices, water quality assessment and community engagement activities.

The new rangers group will be led by a senior ranger and provide seven Indigenous jobs in the Toomelah and Boggabilla area.

### Dharriwaa Elders Group

The Ngarrangarra-li Walaayabba Walgett River Rangers Project will engage a team of Indigenous rangers to improve waterway health in the Walgett region, in western NSW. The rangers’ work will include cultural burning, riverine revegetation, habitat rehabilitation, management of weeds and pests, and development of a Healthy Rivers Framework. The project will be supported by local elders, the Yuwaya Ngarrali team, the University of New South Wales’ Global Water Institute and other key stakeholders. The project will incorporate community engagement activities and joint management arrangements with the NSW Parks and Wildlife Service.

The new rangers group will be led by a ranger coordinator and will provide five new Indigenous ranger jobs, as well as building other support roles in the Walgett area.

### First People of the Millewa-Mallee Aboriginal Corporation

The Lindsay, Mulcra and Wallpolla Islands River Ranger Floodplain Management Program will engage a team of Indigenous rangers in the Mildura region, in northwest Victoria. The rangers will work on floodplain protection, a native fish breeding program, weed management, replanting native wetland plants and cultural mapping in the Murray-Sunset National Park. The new ranger group will work in partnership with traditional owners, the Mallee Catchment Management Authority, local education and training providers and other key stakeholders. The project will build on environmental work conducted in the area by the local community, government and Indigenous cultural rangers.

The new rangers group will be led by a program coordinator and team leader, providing up to six new jobs for Indigenous people in the Mildura area.

### Yarkuwa Indigenous Knowledge Centre Aboriginal Corporation

The Edward/Kolety Wakool River Rangers Project will establish a team of Indigenous rangers to improve the Edward/Kolety Wakool river systems, wetlands and Werai Reserve Ramsar site in the Deniliquin area, in southern NSW. The rangers will monitor and map culturally-significant plants and animals; river, wetland and floodplain habitats; water quality and pest management; and conduct cultural burning. The project will be supported by traditional owners, the NSW Parks and Wildlife Service, the Murray-Darling Wetlands Working Group, the Commonwealth Environmental Water Office, Charles Sturt University and other key stakeholders.

The new rangers group will be managed by a team leader, providing four Indigenous ranger jobs in the Deniliquin region.

### Nari Nari Tribal Council

The Gayini River Rangers Project will establish a team of Indigenous rangers to maintain and improve the health of the wetlands in the Hay region, in southern NSW. The rangers will monitor flooding distribution, waterbird breeding events and native flora health. The team will also monitor and collect data on water quality by tracking turbidity, salinity, dissolved oxygen, temperature and pH levels. The project will be supported by local elders, the Hay Local Aboriginal Land Council, Booroongen Djugen College, Charles Sturt University, the University of New South Wales and other key stakeholders. The project will combine the organisation’s experience in project delivery with partnership arrangements to improve waterway health in the Murray-Darling Basin.

The new rangers group will be led by a ranger supervisor, providing five new Indigenous jobs in the Hay region.

## River ranger project locations

