

MEDIA RELEASE**One Basin CRC Announces Appointment of its Full Board**

Today we are pleased to announce the full membership of the One Basin CRC Board, with Chair, Dr Wendy Craik AM, joined by seven newly appointed Directors: Leanne Bond, Alexandra Gartmann, Peter Hayes, Dr Rohan Henry, Kate O’Callaghan, Fiona Simson and Dr Raelene Ward.

The newly formed Board combines expertise in governance, finance, technology, training, and policy with experience across the water, environment, and agriculture sectors. The Board also includes knowledge and experience spanning all geographical regions of the Murray-Darling Basin.

Chair Dr Wendy Craik AM says “The strength of this CRC is bringing together partners across areas that have been traditionally siloed, to undertake long-term research in the Murray-Darling Basin. This is reflected in the composition of the Board”.

In line with the One Basin CRC’s focus on First Nations inclusion, two of the new Directors, Dr Raelene Ward and Dr Rohan Henry, are Indigenous Australians with outstanding leadership experience. Dr. Raelene Ward said “We will demonstrate genuine commitment to the basic value of ‘Caring for Country’ while working in partnership with Aboriginal First Nations peoples on the basis of equality and mutual respect.”

CEO Prof Mike Stewardson said “I am excited to work with such an experienced and diverse group. At every level of the CRC from the Board to individual projects, we are bringing together diverse thinking from across sectors, regions, and backgrounds. It is this collaboration which is needed to tackle the challenges of adaptation and innovation in river basins like the Murray-Darling.”

The first full Board meeting was held last week. At this meeting, the Board approved the One Basin CRC’s approach to program development. This will begin with partners collaborating to define priority challenges for the CRC’s first three years. The Board highlighted the importance of involving all partners from the start in co-design of the CRC’s programs.

The One Basin CRC commenced on July 1st this year, supported by the Federal Government under its Cooperative Research Centres Program. It is established by 85 partners from across the water, agriculture, technology, and environment sectors, working with regional communities including First Nations and governments. This partnership responds to three shared opportunities to enable regions to:

- Diversify economic opportunities to build resilience in the face of increasing water scarcity
- Transition irrigated agriculture for a drier future, and
- Design smart connected water infrastructure to maximise efficiency and capacity for meeting multiple demands.

The CRC will be hosting Partner Forums at its four Regional Hubs over the coming two months including Loxton (23-24 August), Griffith (30-31 August), Mildura (7-8 September) and Goondiwindi (tbc).

More information on the One Basin Board Directors is provided [here](#).

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