

For First Nations knowledge and Indigenous-led research to address climate change

'Stories of One Basin' is about listening to understand the diverse narratives and histories of relationships between people and the Murray–Darling Basin. At a time of reduced water and other challenges associated with climate change, our broader project aim is to build capacity for all by identifying improved practices for working with Indigenous knowledges.

Key points

One Basin CRC has made an important commitment to working respectfully with First Nations to support greater access to water and land for cultural, social and spiritual connection, and provide greater opportunities for economic development, career development, employment, education and training. This project will support the commitment by:

- Adopting an Indigenous led relational research and learning methodology.
- *Listening to understand* diverse perspectives and experiences of water in the Murray-Darling Basin.

- Being guided by Indigenous and Indigenist scholarship and knowledges.
- Supporting and nurturing a team of researchers who are Indigenous and non-Indigenous.
- Creating opportunities for Indigenous employment, career development, education and training.
- Working collaboratively to build and maintain relational accountability.

The challenge

The 'Stories of One Basin' project is responding to two larger challenges identified by the One Basin CRC. Challenge 1: Building capacity to confront climate change together, and Challenge 4: Realising value from and within rural industries and communities.



The opportunity

We view these commitments and challenges as an opportunity to identify how to promote and nurture a culture where Indigenous led research is a priority, and Indigenous rights are clearly known and adhered to.

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Our research

This research project is multidimensional, transdisciplinary and involves multiple lines of critical inquiry. Firstly, this research considers the role of individual and collective Indigenous and non-Indigenous researchers in the Murray-Darling Basin, specifically the One Basin CRC.

Secondly, an Indigenist relational inquiry is adopted that supports capability development, unlearning/learning, and identification of opportunities for improved practices has been adopted. The relational inquiry involves developing understanding of the past, present and future and will include collaborating with people and Country within and beyond the CRC.

Outcomes

- Opportunities for researchers and decision makers within the Murray-Darling Basin to improve knowledges and practices.
- Increased understanding of the complex challenges within the Murray-Darling Basin and identification of practical solutions.
- Enhanced capabilities and relational accountabilities when working with Indigenous knowledges and diverse knowledge systems.

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Aboriginal relationality – traditionally the foundation of the Law – is an elaborate, complex and refined system of social, moral, spiritual and community obligations that provided an ordered universe for people.

- Professor Mary Graham

Next steps

We would like to hear from you. Please contact us if you have an interesting story or experience of living, researching and or working in the Murray-Darling Basin, and are happy to share this with others. Your story will to help increase understanding around what is required to improve knowledge systems we would like to hear from you. Your story may be recorded, and shared as is, and or be included as part of our data collection and analysis research process. If you are a researcher or decision maker within the Murray-Darling Basin, you may also be invited to participate in a formal relational inquiry.

This project has appropriate ethics approval and follows ethical approaches to human research as outlined by AIATSIS and the NHMRC. If you contact us and share your stories with the team, you can be assured that ethical research protocols are followed. For example, stories can be withdrawn at any time without impacting existing relationships.

One Basin CRC

Since our inception in mid-2022, the **One Basin Cooperative Research Centre** has brought together 85 partners across the Murray-Darling Basin.

Our purpose is to work together to grow value from water in a changing world.

Key personnel

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