



# Nature Impact Collective

Nature Impact Collective's (NIC) first collective funding round selected five organisations championing the ecological health of Australia's inland waters. Each organisation will receive \$270,000, made up of three \$90,000 grants from NIC members. This funding is untied.

As the driest inhabited continent, Australia's fresh water systems are some of our most valuable natural resources, sustaining ecosystems and communities and holding deep cultural meaning for Indigenous people. Unfortunately, they have often been grossly mismanaged, and continue to face new threats.

The AEGN Nature Funding Framework identifies "Funding Waterways for People and Nature" as one of the top ten big gaps in nature funding.

The following organisations collectively lead change from the grassroots to Parliaments, protect intact ecosystems and restore damaged wetlands and waterways, engaging many communities including First Nations.

## Supporting Champions for Australia's Inland Waters | April 2024

### Environment Centre Northern Territory

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The Environment Centre NT works closely with communities to protect the territory's unique biological diversity, building more capacity to defend massive, aquifer-fed rivers that are under threat from agribusiness, fracking and inadequate environmental laws.

"Northern Australia is an ecological and cultural treasure, and unprecedented threats to these extraordinary values often out of sight and out of mind to most Australians. This funding will be transformational for the Environment Centre NT, and the growing movement across the north to achieve durable

protections for some of the last free-flowing rivers and largest intact savanna landscapes in Australia and the world."

– *Kirsty Howey,  
Executive Director*

"We're impressed with Environment Centre NT's considered and strategic approach, and their commitment to collaboration and support for local communities, especially First Nations. They have an outsized impact and a critical role to play. We are thrilled to provide this support to help strengthen their capacity in this crucial freshwater fight."

– *Ella Colley, NIC Director*

### Country Needs People

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Country Needs People (CNP) supports Indigenous communities to manage land and sea Country. Their advocacy builds government funding and support for Indigenous ranger roles and the Indigenous Protected Area program. They work closely with around 50 Indigenous partner organisations.

"Country Needs People is very thankful for this funding, which will allow us to continue to campaign strongly to strengthen Indigenous land and sea management, which plays a major role in biodiversity and threatened species protection, including in many key inland waterways.

Having donors like NIC that are prepared to invest significant sums in core operational support makes a huge difference. It helps us deliver quality work now, with more confidence in the future." – *Paddy O'Leary,  
CEO Country Needs People*

"Country Needs People have a clear role in supporting, amplifying and advocating for community-led Caring for Country initiatives and have worked to bring impressive resources to the sector. We are delighted to provide funds that help them grow their operational capacity."

– *Ella Colley, NIC Director*



Budj Bim Ranger Ben Church. Photographer Annette Ruzicka. Courtesy Country Needs People

## Environmental Justice Australia

Environmental Justice Australia (EJA) combines environmental legal expertise with strategic campaigns to protect the environment. With a long history of work on water and the Murray-Darling Basin, they are stepping up their focus on Ramsar-listed wetlands in the southern Basin.

“The legal strategies that have the biggest impact are often multi-year. This untied funding means we can move ahead with our Murray-Darling Basin work with confidence, while giving us the flexibility to innovate and adapt swiftly

to emerging challenges over two years, ensuring the legal work we are doing will have the greatest impact.”

– *Nicola Rivers & Elizabeth McKinnon, CEOs*

“EJA has proven to be really effective in highlighting national issues, focusing on campaigns that move the dial and bring change to legislation and public policy. They are also fantastic at connecting with local community groups, supporting grassroots community action with the power of law, advocacy and policy influence.”

– *Jim Phillipson, NIC Chair*

## Nature Glenelg Trust

Nature Glenelg Trust (NGT) started life in the cross-border area of South Australia and Victoria to increase on-ground environmental action in the region. Taking a holistic approach to biodiversity conservation, NGT has restored around 70 wetlands and established 10 of its own reserves.

“NIC’s untied investment will underpin a much-needed upgrade of our internal systems to ensure we can sustain and grow our environmental impact in the future. Core operating requirements of this type are fundamental to the success of

not-for-profit environmental organisations. It is with heartfelt thanks that we recognise this tremendous, very generous form of strategic support.” – *Mark Bachman, Managing Director/Founder*

“I really admire the way Nature Glenelg Trust have bootstrapped their way to success, based in the communities in which they invest and care for and working to ‘fill the gaps’ to ensure nature needs and opportunities in regional areas get resources and on-going attention.” – *William Crothers, NIC Director*



Photo: Murray River

## Murray Darling Conservation Alliance

A new alliance of state based organisations, the Murray Darling Conservation Alliance (MDCA) is ramping up a high profile campaign to restore the health of the Murray-Darling Basin. Heavily cleared, degraded and over-extracted while facing a hotter, drier climate, the future of the Basin rests upon an upcoming review of the Murray-Darling Basin Plan.

“This generous grant from NIC will enable us to mobilise community support in the lead-up to the next federal election and translate this into a political commitment to restore Australia’s largest river system. This will lay the foundation for a revitalised Murray-Darling Basin Plan supporting resilient wetland ecosystems and healthy regional communities.” – *Jono La Nauze, CEO Environment Victoria*

“There is a clear need for a body to represent the voice of the community, environment and the long term sustainability of the rural sector covered by this enormous catchment. MDCA’s ability to have a big influence from a small resource platform dramatically amplifies the impact from our investment.”

– *Jim Phillipson, NIC Chair*

**NIC invites other funders to join with us in supporting these organisations, creating more shared impact as funders.**

### Investing in Nature

“The satisfaction of the journey of learning and investing has delighted my partner Jo and I and encouraged us to increase our contribution to the environment so that we are now giving 3 times greater than our original plan. NIC is our next step in giving with friends, learning and making a difference in nature.” – *William Crothers, Upotipotpon Foundation*

To learn more please contact with one of our members: jim.phillipson@mtw.com.au | ella@gumtreefoundation.org.au