

Dhelkunyangu Gatjin

**Gatjin Strategy
Implementation Plan**

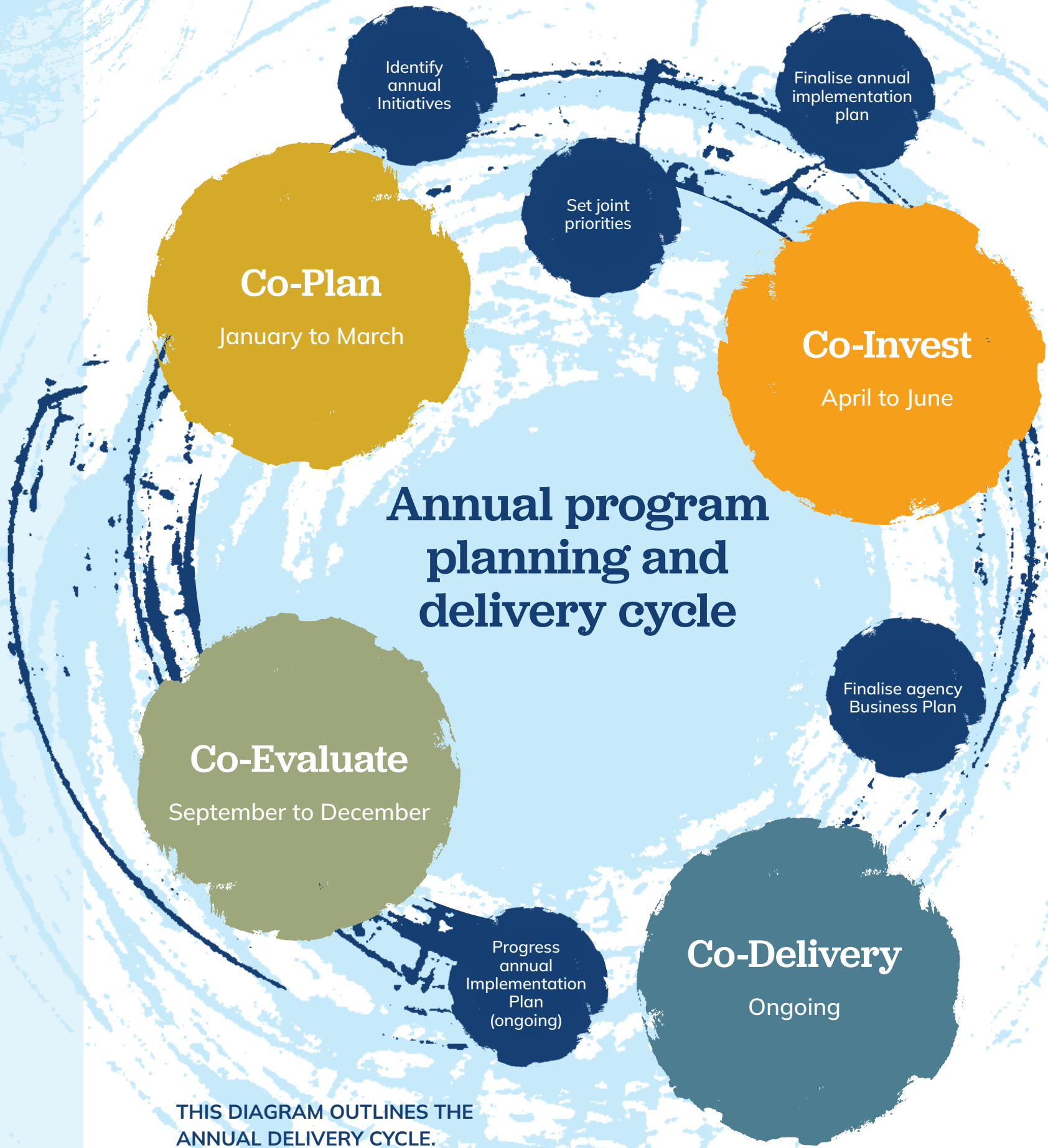
2025 / 2026

The 2025-26 Dhelkunyangu Gatjin Strategy Implementation Plan outlines the initiatives and projects that have been prioritised by Wanggal¹ to progress the implementation of Dhelkunyangu Gatjin (Djaara's Gatjin Strategy) - progressing towards increasing Djaara's involvement in the management of water on Djandak, to apply cultural knowledge and Lore to establish healthy waterways for all.



Wanggal¹ = A cluster of combungi working together to stabilise the bank. (Name given to the Gatjin Strategy Partners Implementation Control Group to signify the collaborative approach to delivering on the Strategy outcomes)

Each year the Wanggal Partners develop the Dhelkunyangu Gatjin Strategy Implementation Plan with the objective of progressing the Gatjin Strategy outcomes and informing all Partners' business plans.

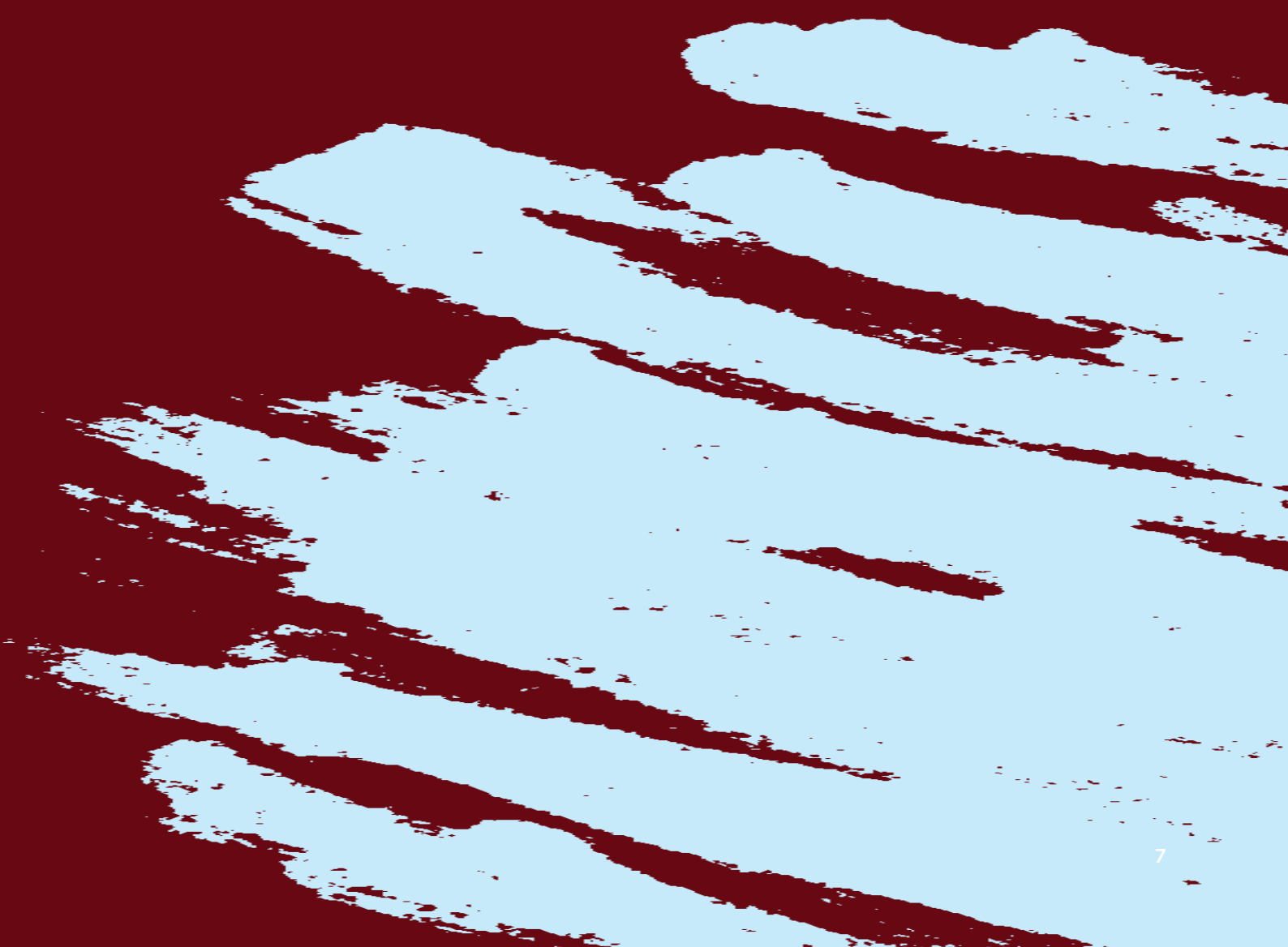




2025-26 Implementation Plan

Initiatives and priorities that have been agreed by Wanggal Partners are outlined for each of the five strategic Barings (pathways) in this implementation plan. Additional action areas for governance, oversight and capability have been included in the Plan.

The initiatives are directly related to achieving the strategic outcomes for the Dhelkunyangu Gatjin Strategy. 'Djaara Centred Projects' are projects either underway or planned and are captured in this document to ensure they are delivered with the guidance of Dhelkunyangu Gatjin and with the oversight of Wanggal.



Governance and oversight

Working together to heal water

2025-26 FOCUS AREA

- Improve Wanggal effectiveness through targeted use of working groups to progress key issues and projects
- Establish formal two-way interactions between agency staff and Djaara members to build capability and understanding

2025-26 DJIMBUNANG INDICATORS

- Three multi-agency working groups established and operating with clear objectives, to progress on a Wanggal focus activity
- Two agencies actively providing DJAARA/DJANDAK exchange opportunities

INITIATIVES

Baring	Initiative	Responsible Organisations	By when
Governance and Oversight-PLAN	Implement Dhelkunyangu Gatjin MERI Strategy	Wanggal Partners Lead: DJANDAK	Ongoing
Capability building	Establish a working group with a focus of employment and capability development opportunities	Wanggal Partners (Employment and Capability Development Working Group) Lead: DJAARA	March 2026
	Agencies Introduce formal staff exchange programs	Wanggal Partners (Employment and Capability Development Working Group) Lead: Coliban Water	March 2026

Make decisions for Gatjin

Baring for Djaara Lore to inform water management decisions

2025-26 FOCUS AREA:

- Build understanding of where key water management decisions are made and scope opportunities for DJAARA/DJANDAK to participate.

2025-26 DJIMBUNANG INDICATORS:

- Agreed arrangements in place for DJAARA/DJANDAK involvement in:
 - Urban Water Strategies
 - Price Submission (PS 28)
 - Stormwater management plans
 - Groundwater management plans

INITIATIVES

Baring	Initiative	Responsible Organisations	By when
Djaara's Involvement in water management defined			
Djaara's Involvement in water management defined	Establish and implement engagement and resourcing framework to enable DJAARA/ DJANDAK to participate in urban water strategy development	Urban Water Corporations, DEECA, DJANDAK (Urban Water Working Group) Lead: Coliban Water	May 2026
	Establish and implement engagement and resourcing framework to enable DJAARA/DJANDAK to participate in price submission	Urban Water Corporations, GMW, DEECA, DJANDAK (Urban Water Working Group) Lead: GWW	June 2026
	Establish agreed engagement approach for DJAARA/DJANDAK to participate in the Western SWS development	DJANDAK, DEECA, Lead: DEECA	November 2025
	Establish process to build Djaara guidance and oversight into delivery of groundwater management plans	GMW, GWMW, DEECA, DJANDAK, Lead: GMW	Feb 2026
	Complete Djaara guidance and expectations analysis to inform urban stormwater management plans across Djandak	DJANDAK, DEECA, Lead: DJANDAK	November 2026
Agreements with relevant authorities formalised	Complete partnership Principles using Wayaparrangu template	Wanggal Partners Lead: DJANDAK	December 2025

Make decisions for environmental water

Baring to make decisions for management and use of environmental water

2025-26 FOCUS AREA:

- Agree and implement shared governance arrangements for the management of environmental water on Djandak

2025-26 DJIMBUNANG INDICATORS:

- Shared governance trialled for Coliban river
- Process to develop the 26/27 seasonal watering plan enables Djaara priorities to be incorporated

INITIATIVES

Baring	Initiative	Responsible Organisations	By when
Djaara input into environmental water planning			
Djaara's Involvement in water management defined	Collaboratively design a Djaara centred environmental water program funding proposal that can be used for EC7 and other funding opportunities. The proposal will enable funding for a meaningful role for DJAARA/DJANDAK in environmental water planning and delivery	North Central CMA,VEWH, DEECA & DJANDAK (Environmental Water Working Group) Lead: DJANDAK	November 2026
	Establish and begin to trial a shared governance approach to the annual environmental watering planning, delivery, monitoring and engagement processes for Coliban River as developed by the Wanggal Environmental Water working group. The first step is for North Central CMA and Djaara to finalise an MoU and workplan.	North Central CMA, VEWB, DEECA, Coliban & DJANDAK (Environmental Water Working Group) Lead: North Central CMA	May 2026
Djaara manage environmental water planning			

Secure cultural water rights

Baring to securing a legislated cultural water right

2025-26 FOCUS AREA:

- Establish a pilot - with a water entitlement – that demonstrates an approach to ownership, management and stewardship or water through cultural Lore

2025-26 DJIMBUNANG INDICATORS:

- One cultural water pilot established with entitlement
- Ongoing, funded monitoring program for DJAARA/DJANDAK scoped

INITIATIVES AND DJAARA CENTRED PROJECTS

Baring	Initiative	Responsible Organisations	By when
Djaara cultural water right defined			
Cultural water knowledge hub established	Establish motoring program incl. water quality, fish and EDNA monitoring	North Central CMA, DJANDAK, DJAARA, Lead: DJANDAK	June 2026
Cultural water right agreed	Scope a pilot project for shared ownership of Ground Water	Coliban Water, GMW, DEECA & DJANDAK Lead: Coliban Water	December 2025
	Establish Research & Development program including existing projects to partner on and identify future needs	Wanggal Partners Lead: DJAARA	May 2026

Secure water rights

Baring to owning a growing water entitlement

2025-26 FOCUS AREA:

- Formalise allocation of existing entitlement opportunities through the State and Commonwealth governments

2025-26 DJIMBUNANG INDICATORS:

- Commonwealth AWEPP (Aboriginal Water Entitlement Program) water entitlements are allocated to DJAARA
- Victorian connections program water entitlements are allocated to DJAARA
- DJAARA/DJANDAK capability in water portfolio management increased through involvement in water management opportunities with water authorities
- One new opportunity for water entitlement to DJAARA identified

INITIATIVES AND DJAARA CENTRED PROJECTS

Baring	Initiative	Responsible Organisations	By when
Djaara water prospectus developed			
Water entitlements secured	Establish and enact a process to transfer water entitlements to DJAARA through the connections program	DEECA Lead: DEECA	March 2026
	Formalise and enact a role for DJAARA/DJANDAK in water corporations annual operating plans for water supply planning	Water Corporations Lead: CHW	March 2026
	Establish process for DJAARA to secure groundwater	DEECA, GMW, GWMW DJANDAK (Urban Water Working Group) Lead: GMW	December 2026
	Identify water reallocation opportunities (including 75GL in the Goulburn system) and capture barriers	DEECA, Water Corporations, DJANDAK Lead: DEECA	December 2025
Mechanism for securing water entitlements agreed	Establish process to Include water reallocation opportunities in water corporation's price submission (PS28) and Urban Water Strategy	Water Corporations, DEECA Lead: GWW	November 2026

Establish a Gatjin Authority

Baring to establish the Djaara Gatjin Authority

2025-26 FOCUS AREA:

- Secure funding and develop a comprehensive plan to pilot the Gatjin Authority

2025-26 DJIMBUNANG INDICATORS:

- A Gatjin Authority pilot plan is funded

INITIATIVES AND DJAARA CENTRED PROJECTS

Baring	Initiative	Responsible Organisations	By when
Authority model defined			
Gatjin Authority established	Re-scope proposal to develop and pilot a Gatjin Authority model to meet the constraints of the DEECA 'Learning by Doing grants'	DJANDAK, DEECA Lead: DJANDAK	March 2026
Gatjin Authority growing			

Wanggal Collaboration and Partnerships

In addition to our Wanggal Partners there are other agencies and forums that perform a critical role in water management on Djandak (Country). These agencies and forums will be engaged as required by the relevant Wanggal partner to support the delivery of Initiatives and Djaara Centred Projects

PARTNER AGENCIES	PARTNER FORUMS
Environmental Protection Authority	Integrated Water Management Forums (Coliban, Central Highlands, Wimmera)
Local Government	Dja Dja Wurrung Natural Resource Agreement (NRA) Forum
Parks Victoria	Water Sensitive Bendigo
Murray Lower Darling Rivers Indigenous Nations (MLDRIN)	North Central Catchment Partners Forum
Federation of Victorian Traditional Owner Corporations (FVTOC)	
Traditional Owner Corporation Caucus (TOCC)	
Victorian Fisheries Authority (VFA)	

Djaara Centred Projects

Baring	Djaara Centred Projects	Responsible Organisations	By when
Make Decisions for Gatjin	Mid-Loddon groundwater Area Management Plan	GMW	August 2026
Make Decisions for Gatjin	Lower Campaspe - Water Supply Protection Area	GMW	February 2027
Make Decisions for Gatjin	AWAs for Bendigo Reclamation plant upgrade	Coliban Water	August 2026
Make Decisions for Gatjin	Detailed water security options analysis	Coliban Water	November 2026
Make Decisions for Gatjin	Lake Eppalock Hydro scheme business case	Coliban Water	December 2025
Secure Water Rights	Bendigo rural water efficiency project business case	Coliban Water	December 2025
Make Decisions for Gatjin	AWAs for Woodend Recycled Water Plant upgrade	GWW	March 2026
Secure Water Rights	Upper Campaspe flows and water return assessment	GWW	June 2027
Secure Water Rights	South Wimmera North-East Pyrenees rural water pipeline business case	GWMW	June 2026
Make Decisions for Gatjin	Apply partnership principles to the development of the Statement of Obligations amendment	DEECA	February 2026
Make Decisions for Gatjin	Planning our Basin future together	DEECA	Ongoing

Baring	Djaara Centred Projects	Responsible Organisations	By when
Make Decisions for Gatjin	Co-Deliver Regional Waterway Strategy	North Central CMA	Nov 2026
Make Decisions for Environmental Water	Campbells Creek Flow Study	DJANDAK	July 2027
Make Decisions for Gatjin	Lower Coliban Healthy Catchment Plan	DJANDAK	July 2027
Make Decisions for Gatjin	Bendigo Creek restoration planning and delivery	DJANDAK	Ongoing until 2028
Make Decisions for Gatjin	Healthy Coliban Catchment	North Central CMA, Coliban Water & DJANDAK	Ongoing until 2028
Make Decisions for Gatjin	Tullaroop Creek - Integrated Catchment Management Plan	North Central CMA, CHW, GMW and DJANDAK	Ongoing until 2028
Make Decisions for Gatjin	Avoca Healthy Catchment Plan implementation	North Central CMA / DJANDAK	Ongoing until 2028
Make Decisions for Gatjin	Update DJAARA - NC CMA partnership agreement	North Central CMA & DJANDAK	November 2026
Make Decisions for Gatjin	First Nations Environmental Water Partnership – watering plan	DJANDAK	Annually until 2028
Secure Cultural Water Rights	Develop Cultural Flows Management plan for Tang Tang swamp complex	DJANDAK	March 2028
Secure Water Rights	Establish ongoing DJAARA water allocation from Newlyn Reservoir	CHW	March 2026





Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation
Trading as DJAARA
PO Box 1026 Bendigo VIC 3552

djadjawurrung.com.au

Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation ICN: 4421