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At its meeting on 26 June 2017 via teleconference, the Murray-Darling Basin Authority discussed the [response received from Murray Darling Basin Ministerial Council members](#) to the proposed amendment to the Basin Plan.

The Ministerial Council members considered there is a need to incorporate further minor technical amendments. Ministers recommended the inclusion of additional provisions for separate requirements for groundwater water quality management plans and an additional step for determining compliance with the long-term sustainable diversion limit as part of the reasonable excuse provisions. [Read a summary of these changes.](#)

The Authority agreed to these two issues and changes have now been made to the amendment to address these matters.

The Authority also welcomed ministers' intention to implement northern Basin toolkit measures and their 'in principle' agreement to a proposed new schedule to the intergovernmental agreement. The Authority has confidence the intended environmental outcomes, in particular protection of environmental flows, will be achieved and so continues to recommend the water recovery target in the north be reduced from 390 GL to 320 GL.

The full suite of updated amendments will now be provided again to Ministerial Council members who have three weeks to reconsider the updated package, and provide any further comments directly to the Commonwealth Water Minister.

After this time, the Authority will provide the recommended amendment to the Commonwealth Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources for final consideration. If endorsed by the Minister, the amendment will then be tabled in Parliament.

The Authority also discussed the final package of sustainable diversion limit (SDL) adjustment mechanism projects recently endorsed by the Ministerial Council.

The Authority noted the importance of the newly notified project: Enhanced Delivery of Environmental Water- in delivering the environmental outcomes required to achieve an SDL offset in excess of 600 GL.

The Authority also noted the critical importance of community engagement in these SDL adjustment projects, and requested the MDBA to work cooperatively with state governments to consult communities prior to the final package to be recommended to the Commonwealth Water Minister in December 2017.