



2014-15 Statement of Assurance – Murray– Darling Basin Authority

In order to maximize transparency and provide assurance to other parties and the community that the obligations under the *Basin Plan 2012* and the Basin Plan Implementation Agreement are being implemented appropriately, the Murray-Darling Basin Authority has completed a self-assessment of performance against its obligations under the Basin Plan and the Basin Plan Implementation Agreement for the 2014-15 water accounting period.

I certify that to the best of my knowledge, for the 2014-15 water accounting period, the information provided in the attached self-assessment accurately reflects the extent to which the MDBA has complied with its obligations under the *Basin Plan 2012* and fulfilled its commitments under the Basin Plan Implementation Agreement.

Where there are instances of partial or non-compliance, I have identified the measures that the Murray-Darling Basin Authority is taking to address each of these matters in the MDBA 2014-15 Consolidated Basin Plan Statement of Assurance Report.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James".

Russell James
Acting Chief Executive
Murray-Darling Basin Authority

30 October 2015



2014-15 Consolidated Basin Plan Statement of Assurance Checklist

October 2015

Chapter	Chapter description	Task	Task description	Subtask	Summary of the BPIA requirements	Timing/ deadline	Compliance with BP and/ or progress against the BPIA*	Commentary
3	Water resource plan areas and water accounting.	38	Identify all water resource plan areas (s3.03).	Task 38.1: Identify and publish maps of the water resource plan areas.	The MDBA will identify and hold relevant data sets for the publication on its website of a map that identifies each water resource plan area.	Update as required, within one month of any change being identified as necessary.	Yes	The MDBA holds the relevant data and water resource plan areas. These are published on our website http://www.mdba.gov.au/ . No updates were required during 2014-15.
4	Identification and management of risks to Basin water resources.	39	Strategies to manage or address identified risks (s4.03).	Task 39.1: Manage current and emerging risks to Basin water resources.	The MDBA will have regard to the management strategies to consistently manage or address risks to Basin water resources.	From commencement of the Plan.	Yes	The MDBA has regard to the range of management strategies to address risks, on an ongoing basis.
4	Identification and management of risks to Basin water resources.	39	Strategies to manage or address identified risks (s4.03).	Task 39.2: Identify research priorities to address risks to Basin water resources.	The MDBA will, through the Basin Plan Implementation Committee – Water Resource Plan Working Group, identify research priorities to improve knowledge of the impact of climate change, interception activities, land use, floodplain harvesting, peri-urban and industrial take on Basin water resources in a manner consistent with the National Water Knowledge and Research Platform.	From commencement of the Plan.	Yes	The MDBA has begun identifying research priorities and developing partnerships with research organisations. The MDBA will continue to progress the development of research priorities through the Basin Plan Implementation Committee's Water Resource Planning Working Group Water Planners Forum, in early 2016.
4	Identification and management of risks to Basin water resources.	40	Guidelines to assist in implementing risk strategies (s4.04).	Task 40.1: Develop guidelines that provide further advice on actions that may be taken to implement the risk strategies listed.	If required, the MDBA will develop guidelines in consultation with the Basin Plan Implementation Committee and the Basin Plan Implementation Committee – Water Resource Plan Working Group.	Guidelines may be developed as required.	Yes	The MDBA suggests that guidelines are not required at this stage.

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6	Water that can be taken.	41	Identification of surface water sustainable diversion limit resource units (s6.02).	Task 41.1: Identify and publish the surface water sustainable diversion limit resource unit maps. Hold relevant data sets.	The MDBA will identify and hold relevant data sets and publish on its website maps that identify each surface water Sustainable Diversion Limit resource unit. The MDBA will consult with Basin Plan Implementation Committee and the Basin Plan Implementation Committee – Water Resource Plan Working Group to update and maintain surface water sustainable diversion limit resource unit maps, as required.	Update as required within one month of any change being identified as necessary.	Yes	MDBA holds the relevant data and surface water sustainable diversion limit maps. These are published on our website http://www.mdba.gov.au/. No updates were required during 2014-15.
6	Water that can be taken.	42	Identification of groundwater sustainable diversion limit resource units (s6.03).	Task 42.1: Identify & publish groundwater sustainable diversion limit resource unit maps.	The MDBA will identify and hold relevant data sets and publish on its website maps that identify each groundwater sustainable diversion limit resource unit.	Update as required within one month of any change being identified as necessary.	Yes	MDBA holds the relevant data and groundwater sustainable diversion limit maps. These are published on our website http://www.mdba.gov.au/. No updates were required during 2014-15.

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6	Water that can be taken.	43	Reviews of the Basin Plan (s6.06)	Task 43.1: Conduct research and investigations to inform reviews of the Basin Plan. Publish the results.	<p>The MDBA will conduct research and investigations for informing any reviews of the Plan and publish on its website any reports produced as a result of this research or investigation.</p> <p>The MDBA will develop, consult through BPIC and implement a strategy to provide new knowledge to future Basin Plan reviews and update the relevant aspects of the Plan.</p> <p>The MDBA will publish its final report on research or investigations conducted to inform any reviews of the Plan on its website.</p>	<p>Undertake a review as identified by the MDBA, or as requested by the Murray–Darling Basin Ministerial Council or the Minister (s50 of the Act).</p> <p>MDBA to develop new knowledge strategy by June 2015.</p>	Yes	<p>1) Research and investigations for the Northern Basin Review are progressing. Most projects will be concluded by the end of 2015 and will inform a decision by the Authority in mid-2016. Reports will be published in due course.</p> <p>2) The MDBA has developed a research and knowledge strategy for 2014 - 2019 and has determined the MDBA's priority research needs. The strategy is being implemented.</p> <p>3) Final reports on research and investigations to inform reviews of the Basin Plan, will be published on the MDBA website in due course.</p>
6	Water that can be taken.	43	Reviews of the Basin Plan (s6.06)	Task 43.2: Arrange reviews of groundwater SDL resource units in three WRP areas. Ensure that each review considers all relevant information. Publish the results.	<p>The MDBA will arrange reviews of groundwater SDL resource units in three water resource plan areas (two in New South Wales and one in Victoria). MDBA will consult with the Basin States in relation to the appointment of experts to participate in reviews and on the review itself.</p> <p>The MDBA will publish on its website any reports produced as a result of this research or investigation.</p>	By November 2014.	Yes	<p>The three groundwater reviews were completed by October 2014.</p> <p>The review reports were published on the MDBA website http://www.mdba.gov.au/ in December 2014</p>

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7	Constraints management strategy.	45	Constraints Management Strategy (s7.08).	Task 45.7: Provide annual reports to Ministerial Council on progress with implementing Strategy.	The MDBA will assess and report on progress against recommendations in the Constraints Management Strategy, in consultation with Basin States.	Annually from June 2014.	Yes	The MDBA provided the first annual progress report to Ministers in November 2014.
7	Constraints management strategy.	45	Constraints management strategy (s7.08).	Task 45.8: Amend the Constraints Management Strategy as appropriate.	The MDBA will consider new information and progress in implementing the Constraints Management Strategy and update, as required, in consultation with all parties and the community.	As new information becomes available.	Yes	Amendments to the Constraints Management Strategy were not necessary during 2014-15.
8	Environmental watering plan.	50	Basin-wide environmental watering strategy (ss8.13 - 8.17 & 8.49 - 8.51; Schedules 8 & 9).	Task 50.1: Prepare a Basin-wide environmental watering strategy.	The MDBA will publish the Basin-wide environmental watering strategy.	November 2014	Yes	The draft strategy was published for public consultation on the MDBA website on 21 August 2014 until 26 September 2014. The MDBA published the <i>Basin-wide environmental watering strategy</i> on the MDBA website http://www.mdba.gov.au/ on 24 November 2014.
8	Environmental watering plan.	51	Basin annual environmental watering priorities (ss8.27 - 8.31, 8.04 - 8.07, 8.14(2) (a) (i), 8.49 - 8.51, 8.33 - 8.43, 8.53 - 8.59; Schedules 8 & 9).	Task 51.1: Prepare Basin annual environmental watering priorities each year.	In consultation with Basin States and the CEWH, the MDBA will review the framework for development of Basin annual environmental watering priorities, based on feedback and evaluation of previous year's priorities.	By 31 January each year	Yes	The MDBA demonstrated how it will identify Basin annual environmental watering priorities in the Basin-wide environmental watering strategy (published November 2014). The Basin states were consulted on the draft <i>Basin-wide environmental watering strategy</i> .

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8	Environmental watering plan.	51	Basin annual environmental watering priorities (ss8.27 - 8.31, 8.04 - 8.07, 8.14(2) (a) (i), 8.49 - 8.51, 8.33 - 8.43, 8.53 - 8.59; Schedules 8 & 9).	Task 51.1: Prepare Basin annual environmental watering priorities each year.	The MDBA will consult with environmental water holders and Basin States on the proposed Basin annual environmental watering priorities.	By 31 May each year.	Yes	<p>The MDBA undertook meetings, workshops and discussions with environmental water holders and Basin States during the preparation and draft stages of the 2015-16 Basin annual environmental watering priorities.</p> <p>Specific groups that were consulted included but were not limited to the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Basin Plan Implementation Committee the Environmental Watering Working Group.
8	Environmental watering plan.	51	Basin annual environmental watering priorities (ss8.27 - 8.31, 8.04 - 8.07, 8.14(2) (a) (i), 8.49 - 8.51, 8.33 - 8.43, 8.53 - 8.59; Schedules 8 & 9).	Task 51.1: Prepare Basin annual environmental watering priorities each year.	The MDBA will provide advice to Basin States in developing their annual environmental watering priorities, if requested.	By 31 May each year.	Yes	<p>The MDBA provided comments to the ACT government on their draft annual watering priorities as requested.</p> <p>The MDBA did not receive any requests from the other Basin States to provide advice for the preparation of state watering priorities for the 2015-16 water year.</p>

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8	Environmental watering plan.	51	Basin annual environmental watering priorities (ss8.27 - 8.31, 8.04 - 8.07, 8.14(2) (a) (i), 8.49 - 8.51, 8.33 - 8.43, 8.53 - 8.59; Schedules 8 & 9).	Task 51.1: Prepare Basin annual environmental watering priorities each year.	The MDBA will have regard to the annual environmental watering priorities provided by the Basin States.	April – June each year.	Yes	<p>The MDBA was provided with annual environmental watering priorities by all Basin states.</p> <p>The MDBA considers state annual environmental watering priorities in early June by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reviewing them against the Basin environmental watering strategy quantitative environmental outcomes • applying the Basin Significance Assessment • considering synergies and or conflicts <p>The 2015-16 Basin annual environmental watering priorities reflected that feedback.</p>
8	Environmental watering plan.	51	Basin annual environmental watering priorities (ss8.27 - 8.31, 8.04 - 8.07, 8.14(2) (a) (i), 8.49 - 8.51, 8.33 - 8.43, 8.53 - 8.59; Schedules 8 & 9).	Task 51.1: Prepare Basin annual environmental watering priorities each year.	The MDBA will publish the Basin annual environmental watering priorities.	By 30 June each year.	Yes	<p>The <u>2015-16</u> Basin annual environmental watering priorities were published on the MDBA website by 30 June 2015.</p>

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8	Environmental watering plan.	51	Basin annual environmental watering priorities (ss8.27 - 8.31, 8.04 - 8.07, 8.14(2) (a) (i), 8.49 - 8.51, 8.33 - 8.43, 8.53 - 8.59; Schedules 8 & 9).	Task 51.1: Prepare Basin annual environmental watering priorities each year.	The MDBA will seek stakeholder feedback on the process for developing Basin annual environmental watering priorities to inform the process in the following year.	July – December each year.	Yes	<p>The MDBA sought feedback on the process to develop the 2014-15 Basin annual environmental watering priorities, from the Environmental Watering Working Group and through state advisory groups.</p> <p>This feedback informed a revised process for the development of the 2015-16 priorities.</p> <p>The MDBA published the <i>Basin environmental watering outlook for 2015-16</i> in March 2015, to provide an early indication of the MDBA’s thinking and the process for the coming year. It also provided more of an opportunity for stakeholder engagement</p>
8	Environmental watering plan.	51	Basin annual environmental watering priorities (ss8.27 - 8.31, 8.04 - 8.07, 8.14(2) (a) (i), 8.49 - 8.51, 8.33 - 8.43, 8.53 - 8.59; Schedules 8 & 9).	Task 51.1: Prepare Basin annual environmental watering priorities each year.	The MDBA will evaluate whether priorities are met, based on annual reporting requirements and reporting of where Basin annual environmental watering priorities are not followed and review the prioritisation framework and process.	July – December each year.	Yes	The Basin environmental watering outlook and priorities for 2015-16 were informed by a review of the environmental watering from 2013-14 and the initial information about watering in 2014-15.
8	Environmental watering plan.	52	Establish and maintain assets and functions database (s8.48).	Task 52.1 Establish and maintain assets and functions database.	The MDBA will prepare a draft strategy for developing and maintaining the environmental assets and functions database.	By June 2014.	Partial	Scoping to inform a strategy has been completed.

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8	Environmental watering plan.	52	Establish and maintain assets and functions database (s8.48).	Task 52.1 Establish and maintain assets and functions database.	The MDBA will implement the strategy as agreed.	From July 2014.	Partial.	The environmental assets and functions database pilot (to test the concepts and viability of the scoping work) is scheduled for 2015-16.
8	Environmental watering plan.	52	Establish and maintain assets and functions database (s8.48).	Task 52.1 Establish and maintain assets and functions database.	The MDBA may publish this database on its website.	From July 2014.	Partial.	The pilot will inform the approach to implementation of the environmental assets and functions database.
9	Water quality and salinity management plan.	53	Salt export objective (s9.09).	Task 53.1: Conduct an annual assessment of the extent to which the salt export objective is met against the indicative figure of a minimum 2 million tonnes per year.	The MDBA will annually estimate salt export, and publish the estimate on its website.	March 2015 and annually for each water accounting period thereafter.	In Progress	An assessment of the salt export objective will be undertaken when the South Australian diversion data are available. The outcome of the assessment will be reported in the Basin Plan Annual Report.

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9	Water quality and salinity management plan.	54	Targets for managing water flows (s9.14).	Task 54.1: Have regard to flow-related targets on dissolved oxygen, recreational water quality and levels of salinity when making decisions about the use of environmental water.	<p>a) The MDBA will have regard to the targets when making decisions about the use of environmental water.</p> <p>b) The MDBA will prepare a proposal for consideration by the Basin Plan Implementation Committee for a new guideline providing additional guidance in relation to flow management decisions by the MDBA, Basin Officials Committee and Basin States and in relation to environmental water use decisions by the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder and other environmental water holders and managers.</p>	From commencement of the Plan.	<p>a) Yes</p> <p>b) In progress</p>	<p>a) The MDBA had regard to the flow-related targets on dissolved oxygen, recreational water quality and levels of salinity when making decisions about the use of environmental water, in regard to the Living Murray program and the management of the River Murray.</p> <p>b) The preparation of a guideline for flow management and environmental water use decisions is on hold until details of the Basin Salinity Management Strategy for the next 15-year period (2016-2030) are developed. This strategy is expected to be finalised in late 2015. The MDBA will then develop the guideline.</p>

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9	Water quality and salinity management plan.	54	Targets for managing water flows (s9.14).	Task 54.2: Monitor salinity levels at five sites on a daily basis and report at the end of each water accounting period.	The MDBA will assess whether the salinity targets have been met over the period that consists of that water accounting period and the previous four water accounting periods.	March 2015 and annually for each water accounting period thereafter.	Yes	Monitoring of salinity at five reporting sites has occurred during the water accounting period (and the preceding four water accounting periods). The MDBA has assessed that the targets were met at all sites except Burtundy and Milang.
9	Water quality and salinity management plan.	55	Incorporating water quality targets, in State water resource plans (ss9.16 - 9.18).	Task 55.1: Publish a map.	A map that identifies each target application zone for water quality targets for fresh water-dependent ecosystems has been published on the MDBA website.	From commencement of the Plan.	Yes	A <u>map</u> that identifies each target application zone has been published on the MDBA website.
9	Water quality and salinity management plan.	56	Application of salinity targets for the purposes of long-term salinity planning and management (s9.19).	Task 56.1: Apply salinity targets in the Murray-Darling Basin Agreement for salinity planning and management.	The MDBA, Basin Officials Committee and Basin States are to undertake any long-term salinity planning and management functions in accordance with the targets in Appendix 1 of Schedule B, including the Basin Salinity Management Strategy Operational Protocols. For associated provisions for which the Basin States have a related accountability, refer to paragraph 23.1 of this Agreement.	From commencement of the Plan.	Yes	The MDBA has implemented the <u>Basin Salinity Management Strategy 2001-2015</u> , in accordance with Schedule B of the Murray-Darling Basin Agreement. The MDBA is currently preparing the next 15 year (up to 2030) salinity management strategy. This will be presented to the Ministerial Council in late 2015 for approval.

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9	Water quality and salinity management plan.	57	Chapter 9 Guidelines (s9.13).	Task 57.1: Prepare and publish guidelines relating to water quality targets.	The MDBA will prepare a proposal for consideration by the Basin Plan Implementation Committee for a new guideline providing additional guidance in relation to flow management decisions by the MDBA, Basin Officials Committee and Basin States and when making decisions about the use of environmental water by the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder and other environmental water holders and managers. The Basin Plan Implementation Committee will then decide the process for the guideline to be developed.	As agreed through the Basin Plan Implementation Committee.	Yes	The preparation of a guideline in relation to flow management and environmental water use decisions is on hold until details of the Basin Salinity Management Strategy for the next 15-year period (2016-2030), is developed. This strategy is expected to be finalised in late 2015. The MDBA will then develop the guideline.

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10	Water resource plan requirements.	58	Assessment of water resource plans (ss10.01 - 10.55).	Task 58.1: Assess water resource plans for accreditation.	<p>The MDBA and Basin States will collectively settle a general approach to assessment and accreditation and agree on Basin State Water Resource Plan Development Work Programs to ensuring a progressive work flow through to 30 June 2019.</p> <p>The MDBA will consult with relevant indigenous organisations, including Murray Lower-Darling Rivers Indigenous Nation and Northern Basin Aboriginal Nations, with respect to indigenous values and uses for water resource plan accreditation.</p>	<p>Agree a general approach within three months of the first consideration of this matter by the Basin Plan Implementation Committee.</p> <p>Agree individual Basin State work programs within 6 months of the settlement of the general approach, or as agreed.</p>	Yes	The general approach and the Basin States indicative work program were finalised by the Basin Plan Implementation Committee in August 2014. The general approach includes reference to the role of indigenous organisations. Detailed arrangements for consultation with indigenous organisations are currently being developed.
10	Water resource plan requirements.	58	Assessment of water resource plans (ss10.01 - 10.55).	Task 58.2: Convene water planners' forum.	The MDBA will, commencing in 2014, convene an annual water planners' forum.	Annually, commencing March 2014.	Yes	The 2 nd Annual Water Planners' Forum was held on 25– 26 March 2015. Plans are underway for the 3 rd Forum in March 2016.

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11	Critical human water needs.	62	Process for assessing inflows (s11.06).	Task 62.1: Monitor and review inflow volumes within the River Murray System.	Within the River Murray System, the MDBA ¹ must monitor and review inflow volumes taking into account the best possible inflow information, tributary inflows, daily, monthly and seasonal weather conditions and trends in climate and inflow patterns.	Continuous monitoring.	Yes	The monitoring and review of inflow volumes as part of the regular water resources assessment, occurs through discussions with the Water Liaison Working Group.
11	Critical human water needs.	63	Process for managing risks to critical human water needs associated with inflow prediction (s11.07).	Task 63.1: Assess the risks of insufficient conveyance water, insufficient water for the conveyance reserve, and the water quality and salinity triggers been reached.	The MDBA will assess and manage the risks to critical human water needs associated with inflow prediction and in conducting its river operations functions and determine whether any advances under the Murray-Darling Basin Agreement are required.	By 30 June each year from 2013.	Yes	Appropriate water reserves have been set aside. The last water year was low risk in relation to critical human water needs.
11	Critical human water needs.	63	Process for managing risks to critical human water needs associated with inflow prediction (s11.07).	Task 63.2: Undertake water resource assessments.	The MDBA prepares Water Resource Assessments, usually monthly but may be more frequent if conditions are very dry.	As required.	Yes	Water Resource assessments were, and continue to be, prepared as agreed with the Water Liaison Working Group.

¹ In relation to River Operation including tasks 62-65, the Independent River Operations Review Group (IRORG) has reviewed the Authority’s compliance with the Act and the Basin Plan in relation to river operations. IRORG has reported “The Authority was able to demonstrate to IRORG that it had met its obligations under the Act and Basin Plan in relation to these operational functions.”

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11	Critical human water needs.	64	Risk management approach for inter-annual planning for critical human water needs arrangements (s11.08).	Task 64.1: Undertake inter-annual planning for critical human water needs.	From January to June each year the MDBA prepares a forecast of the water available in the next water year. This second year forecast will be based on the matters listed under s11.08 (1) of the Plan.	Monthly, from Jan to June each year.	Yes	Second year water assessments were prepared as agreed with Water Liaison Working Group.
11	Critical human water needs.	65	Commencement and cessation of Tier 2 water sharing arrangements (ss11.09 & 11.10).	Task 65.1: Determine if the trigger is reached and Tier 1 or 2 applies.	The MDBA, through the preparation of the Water Resource Assessment, will determine if the triggers detailed in BP s11.09 have been reached, or if the appropriate conditions apply.	Event based.	Yes	Tier 1 water sharing arrangements were applied throughout year.
11	Critical human water needs.	66	Declarations on allowable restrictions on permitted use of exchange rates (ss12.18 & 12.22).	Task 66.1: Determine if the trigger is reached and Tier 3 applies.	The MDBA, through the preparation of the Water Resource Assessment will determine if the appropriate conditions apply.	Event based.	Yes	Tier 1 water sharing arrangements were applied throughout year.

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12	Water trading rules.	67	Restrictions on trade and their application (ss12.02 - 12.36).	Task 67.2: Ensure trades are consistent with the water trading rules.	How has the MDBA been working with regulated entities to ensure they can be consistent with the water trading rules?	Reporting period: 1 July 2014- 30 June 2015 Reporting deadline: 31 October 2015	Yes	<p>The MDBA has been working closely with Basin States to address possible areas of inconsistency with the Basin Plan water trading rules. This has included bilateral discussions, as well as through the BPIC Trading Rules Working Group.</p> <p>The MDBA has improved engagement with individuals who trade water as they have new responsibilities under the trading rules.</p> <p>In preparation for the implementation of the water trading rules, the MDBA published guidelines to help regulated entities understand their obligations.</p> <p>Letters were sent to IIOs to inform them of their new responsibilities.</p>
12	Water trading rules.	68	Declarations on allowable restrictions on permitted use of exchange rates (ss12.18 & 12.22).	Task 68.1: Make a declaration on allowable restrictions on trade.	Where a Basin State has requested, has the MDBA published a written declaration of the decision to allow the restriction on trade and its reasons for doing so?	Reporting period: 1 July 2014- 30 June 2015 Reporting deadline: 31 October 2015	Yes	In 2014-15, no requests were received from Basin states.

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12	Water trading rules.	68	Declarations on allowable restrictions on permitted use of exchange rates (ss12.18 & 12.22).	Task 68.2: Make a declaration on permitted use of exchange rates.	Where a Basin State has requested, has the MDBA published a written declaration of the decision to permit a specified exchange rate and the reasons for doing so?	Reporting period: 1 July 2014- 30 June 2015 Reporting deadline: 31 October 2015	Yes	On 27 June 2014, the Victorian Department of Environment and Primary Industries requested a declaration to apply exchange rates to trade of water entitlements, from the Victorian Murray and South Australian Murray to the Goulburn, Campaspe and Loddon systems. The MDBA published a written declaration of the decision to permit this exchange rate and the reasons for doing so on 18 August 2014. This can be found on the MDBA website http://www.mdba.gov.au/
12	Water trading rules.	69	Information and reporting requirements (ss12.40 - 12.51).	Task 69.1: Publish information about water access rights and trading rules.	Has the MDBA published information about water access rights and trading rules and updated this information as necessary?	Reporting period: 1 July 2014- 30 June 2015 Reporting deadline: 31 October 2015	Yes	In preparation for the introduction of the Basin Plan water trading rules, information about a number of highly traded water market products was published on 28 May 2014 on the MDBA website http://www.mdba.gov.au/ . On 31 July 2014, the MDBA published information about State trading rules. This information can be found on the MDBA website . http://www.mdba.gov.au/ Subsequently, trading rules for IIOs were also published. They can be found on the MDBA website . http://www.mdba.gov.au/

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12	Water trading rules.	69	Information and reporting requirements (ss12.40 - 12.51).	Task 69.2: Make water announcements generally available.	<p>Has the MDBA published water announcements in a way that makes them generally available?</p> <p>Has the MDBA implemented a process to manage and address situations where a person may become aware of a water announcement that is not yet generally available?</p>	<p>Reporting period: 1 July 2014- 30 June 2015</p> <p>Reporting deadline: 31 October 2015</p>	Yes	<p>In the 2014-15 water year, the MDBA made a number of water announcements.</p> <p>In relation to announcements made on the Barmah Choke, the Water Markets team ensured they were generally available by publishing a media release as well as putting the release on the MDBA website http://www.mdba.gov.au/.</p> <p>Relevant Barmah Choke announcements can be found on the MDBA website http://www.mdba.gov.au/.</p> <p>Following the introduction of the Basin Plan water trading rules, the MDBA developed the 'Protocol to managing sensitive water market information' for MDBA staff. This came into effect on 25 August and it assists staff to identify when they may be dealing with sensitive information, including water announcements as defined under the Basin Plan water trading rules.</p>

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13	Program for monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of the Basin Plan.	70	Reporting Requirements (ss13.14 - 13.16).	Task 70.1: Prepare a guideline for the reporting requirements.	The MDBA will consult with the Basin Plan Implementation Committee and through the Basin Plan Implementation Committee – Monitoring and Evaluation Working Group on Basin State reporting requirements. The MDBA will reach an agreement with the Department of the Environment by 31 August 2013 in respect to the Department of the Environment’s reporting requirements.	By 31 October 2013.	Yes	Completed
13	Program for monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of the Basin Plan.	70	Reporting Requirements (ss13.14 - 13.16).	Task 70.2: Produce a report on each MDBA Category B matter listed in Schedule 12.	For 2014-15 reporting year: The MDBA will provide reports in line with the Plan’s reporting requirements as per Schedule 12 and the Chapter 13 guideline. The guideline sets out a transition process to full reporting.	By 31 October 2015.	Yes	In progress and on track to be completed by 31 October 2015.

Chapter	Chapter description	Task	Task description	Subtask	Summary of the BPIA requirements	Timing/ deadline	Compliance with BP and/ or progress against the BPIA*	Commentary
13	Program for monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of the Basin Plan.	71	Effectiveness Reports (s13.05).	Task 71.1: Evaluate the effectiveness of the Basin Plan against the objectives and outcomes set out in Ch 5, 8 and 9.	MDBA Annual Effectiveness Report developed annually in consultation with the BPIC – Monitoring and Evaluation Working Group.	Draft MDBA report to Basin States and the CEWH by 31 December 2014 for comment by mid-February 2015 (and annually thereafter). Report published 31 March 2015 (and annually thereafter).	Yes	The first full year Basin Plan annual report was published in April 2015.
13	Program for monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of the Basin Plan.	74	Conduct an audit to assess the extent of compliance with the Plan. (ss13.10 & 13.20).	Task 74.1: Conduct audit.	The MDBA may conduct, or appoint or establish a person or body to conduct, periodic audits to assess the extent of compliance with the Plan. Finalised audits will be published on the MDBA website.	Periodically.	Yes	MDBA did not conduct any compliance audit in 2014-15.