



Government of South Australia

Department for Environment
and Water

DEW-D0004437

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Dear Mr Glyde

Re: South Australia's Basin Plan annual report and statement of assurance for 2018-19

Please find attached South Australia's Basin Plan Annual Report for 2018-19. The report follows the guidelines and template developed by the Murray-Darling Basin Authority and the Department of Agriculture.

The report is submitted to the Murray-Darling Basin Authority to satisfy South Australia's reporting obligations for Basin Plan Schedule 12 responses and Basin Plan implementation agreement self-assessment of compliance with implementation tasks (as detailed in sections M10, M13, M14, M16 and O).

I certify that, to the best of my knowledge, for the 2018-19 water accounting period, the information provided in the Basin Plan Annual Report attached to this statement accurately reflects the extent to which South Australia is compliant with its obligations under the Basin Plan 2012.

Should you have any questions about South Australia's annual report or require any further information, please contact Mr Josh Kaplan, Manager, Basin Plan Strategy and Implementation within the Department for Environment and Water, on joshua.kaplan2@sa.gov.au or telephone: 0401 120 873.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Schutz', written over a printed name and title.

JOHN SCHUTZ
Chief Executive, Department for Environment and Water

28/8/2019

Encl: 1. South Australia's Basin Plan annual report for 2018-19

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The South Australia 2018–19 annual report to satisfy annual reporting obligations for:

- Basin Plan Schedule 12 responses (except Matter 9 – use of environmental water)
- National Partnerships Agreement (NPA) assurance of milestone achievement
- Basin Plan Implementation Agreement (BPIA) self-assessment of compliance with implementation tasks.

Reporting context

This template provides a single Commonwealth information collection point that covers Basin State 2018-19 annual reporting obligations in relation to the Murray-Darling Basin Plan for:

- Basin Plan Schedule 12
- the Basin Plan Implementation Agreement (BPIA) compliance requirements
- the milestone assessments of the National Partnership Agreement (NPA) on Implementing Water Reform in the Murray-Darling Basin

Note that: reporting for Schedule 12 Matter 9 (the identification and use of environmental water) is reported separately by Basin states, CEWH and the Authority; and reporting for Schedule 12 Matter 5 (the transition to long-term average sustainable diversion limits) is reported separately by the Department of Agriculture (the Department).

The Department will use the information provided in this template as well as multiple other sources to meet NPA reporting requirements. Where milestones have not been fully met in 2018–19, Basin states should indicate what steps are underway to fully meet the milestone in the future. Where applicable, describe any intended actions and planned timeframe for the milestone to be met. The Department will seek collaborating information from the MDBA and Commonwealth Environmental Water Office (CEWO) where applicable.

Matter 6: Local Knowledge & Solutions

Reporting Matter	Reporting Requirement (Supporting evidence to be provided by Basin States)	Response (response/milestone achievement/compliance status)
<p>M6 The extent to which local knowledge and solutions inform the implementation of the Basin Plan.</p> <p>[Chapter 6, 8 & 10]</p> <p>[NPA 8e]</p>	<p>Please describe the process and outcomes of local engagement contributing to key BP implementation activities in 2018-19 as follows:</p> <p>M6a) Water Resource Plans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The engagement process and how local knowledge and views influenced the development of WRPs. Any activities undertaken to increase Traditional Owners' capacity to participate in the development of WRPs, and improve engagement between water planners and Traditional Owners, in order to incorporate indigenous values and uses into WRPs (BP Ch10 Part 9). 	<p>South Australia has used consultation associated with State statutory water planning instruments as the engagement mechanisms for water resource plan development. Significant community consultation and engagement occurred throughout 2018-19 during the drafting of the 2019 River Murray Water Allocation Plan (WAP), which is the key statutory mechanism underpinning the South Australian River Murray water resource plan. The statutory consultation period for the River Murray WAP ran between 13 July and 14 September 2018. During this time, the community was invited to make written submissions and attend public meetings. Extensive consultation and policy discussion was also undertaken with the River Murray Advisory Committee, which includes membership from peak industry bodies and the community.</p> <p>South Australia has continued to engage with Aboriginal Nations across the South Australian Murray-Darling Basin region through an approach developed at the Joint Nation's meetings in 2016-17. Each Nation is engaged according to their individual needs, interests and capacity. This engagement has been undertaken through joint and individual meetings and on-Country workshops facilitated or co-facilitated by Nation representatives. As part of South Australia's commitment to capacity building, the First Peoples and Ngarrindjeri water coordinators are supported within their Nation organisations to lead the water engagement by their Nation.</p> <p><u>Reflections from the First Peoples water coordinator</u></p> <p>The First Peoples water coordinator was employed through the River Murray and Mallee Aboriginal Corporation. This arrangement has helped with early engagement with the First Peoples on water planning matters that are relevant to them. The benefits and achievements from the First People's perspective have included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The numerous workshops and getting out on country has created the opportunities to better understand how things (the planning process through to management plans) fit together. Time for the community to consider information and requests and a clear engagement process to respond to notifications and requests for input into planning and management plans. Greater collaboration between the community and the South Australian Department for Environment and Water (DEW) - breaking down barriers between the community and DEW, leading to the development of a more "equal" relationship which has seen a shift from a "them telling us how" approach to now "asking". The development of the First Peoples Program Logic framework to help with the evaluation of water resource plan outcomes has been valued by the community. This would not have been achieved without long-term investment by DEW, which has allowed the community to develop the capacity, time and skills to develop the framework.
	<p>M6b) Environmental watering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe the engagement process and how local knowledge, views and solutions influenced the planning and delivery of environmental water and the outcomes. This includes how the following were considered: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the views of local communities and persons materially affected by the management of environmental water (BP8.39 and NPA 8e) indigenous values (BP8.35). 	<p>The planning and delivery of environmental water in South Australia involves DEW staff engaging and consulting with a wide range of agencies and stakeholder groups. These include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coorong, Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth (CLLMM) Community Advisory Group. Lower Lakes, Coorong and Murray Mouth (LLCMM) Scientific Advisory Group. Chowilla Community Reference Committee (CRC). Ngarrindjeri Regional Authority (NRA). Mannum Aboriginal Community Association Incorporated (MACAI). First Peoples of the River Murray and Mallee Region. River Murray Advisory Committee (RMAC). Landcare groups. Irrigation industry groups. Commonwealth, state and local government organisations (e.g. Commonwealth Environmental Water Office (CEWO), Local Councils, SA Water, South Australian Environment Protection Authority). Tourism and recreation groups (boating, recreation and fishing). Coorong commercial fishing representatives. Individual landholders that may be impacted through environmental water delivery. <p>A workshop on 'Aboriginal voices in environmental water management' was held in Berri from 14-15 March 2019 with South Australian Murray Lower Darling Indigenous Nations (MLDRIN) representatives and DEW. The workshop discussed current engagement methods used by DEW for incorporating cultural values and priorities into environmental water planning and jointly developed ideas for improvements to these practices. As a result of this workshop, engagement with First Nation groups on the 2019-20 South Australian environmental watering priorities has been greatly improved, with considerable consultation and meaningful and open dialogue occurring across a number of groups and sites, both on country and at targeted meetings.</p>
	<p>M6c) Other Basin Plan implementation activities, namely SDL adjustment:</p> <p>Describe how local knowledge and solutions identified through engagement with local communities, including Aboriginal communities, impacted on the implementation of other key Basin Plan mechanisms or activities including the development and implementation of SDL adjustment measures. (Reporters may also choose to address any of</p>	<p><u>South East Flows Restoration Project Case Study</u></p> <p>The South East Flows Restoration Project is a \$60 million investment to assist salinity management in the Coorong South Lagoon, enhance flows to wetlands in the Upper South East region of South Australia and reduce drainage outflow at Kingston beach. Construction commenced in March 2017 and was completed in mid-2019.</p> <p>When consulted on the concept design, the community perceived a lack of benefit to its region from the proposed flow path. In response to these concerns, the community put forward three options that it considered would bring a greater direct benefit to the South East region. Following investigations, the project proceeded with one of the community's suggested options. This process allowed the project to build rapport with the</p>

Reporting Matter	Reporting Requirement (Supporting evidence to be provided by Basin States)	Response (response/milestone achievement/compliance status)
	<p>their other engagement priorities, which may vary among jurisdictions). Examples or case studies are not mandatory, but may be a useful way to describe how local knowledge and solutions inform implementation of the Basin Plan.</p>	<p>community, who felt their ideas and concerns were considered. This option provided additional storage capacity and benefit to the ecologically significant Tilley Swamp wetland.</p> <p>Traditional owner engagement was also essential, with representatives from the Ngarrindjeri Regional Authority and South East Aboriginal Focus Group involved during the design and construction phases to support and enhance cultural values associated with connection to healthy land and water.</p> <p>The design stemming from this collaboration has resulted in enhanced environmental (delivery of water to en route wetlands) and operational (increased flexibility) outcomes for the project.</p>

Matter 10: Environmental Watering

Reporting Matter	Reporting Requirement (Supporting evidence to be provided by Basin States)	Response (response/milestone achievement/compliance status)
<p>M10 The implementation of the environmental management framework.</p> <p>[Chapter 8, Part 4] [NPA 8f] [BPIA 18.1]</p>	<p>M10a) Are you on track to develop long-term watering plans for surface water resource plan areas consistent with the requirements of the Basin Plan?</p> <p><i>The Department's guidance - reporting may include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where long-term surface watering plans have not been finalised, please indicate whether an extension of time has been agreed with the MDBA and report on progress in the preparation of plans to provide assurance that the agreed revised timeframe will be met. 	<p>The long-term watering plan was completed for the South Australian River Murray water resource plan area by November 2015, consistent with the requirements of Chapter 8. It was endorsed by the then South Australian Minister for Water and the River Murray and is publicly available on the DEW website: http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/managing-natural-resources/river-murray/restoring-river-health/environmental-water/environmental-water-planning</p> <p>The long-term watering plan was completed for the Eastern Mount Lofty Ranges water resource plan area by July 2017, consistent with the requirements of Chapter 8. It is publicly available on the DEW website: http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/managing-natural-resources/river-murray/restoring-river-health/environmental-water/environmental-water-planning</p> <p>The long-term watering plan was completed for the SA Murray region water resource plan area by November 2017, consistent with the requirements of Chapter 8. It is publicly available on the DEW website: http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/managing-natural-resources/river-murray/restoring-river-health/environmental-water/environmental-water-planning</p> <p>South Australia is currently working to review and update all three plans.</p>
<p>[Chapter 8, Part 4] [NPA 8c]</p>	<p>M10b) Were annual environmental watering priorities (AEWP) or other relevant instruments submitted to the MDBA for all areas by 31 May 2019, for the purposes of identifying the Basin annual environmental watering priorities for the water resource plan areas?</p> <p><i>The Department's guidance - reporting may include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Confirmation that annual environmental watering priorities have been prepared and provided to the MDBA for all (regulated and unregulated) surface water catchments. A rationale should be given for any areas where these have not been prepared. As per s8.24 of the Basin Plan, the level of detail in annual environmental watering priorities may vary according to local conditions, and statutory and other arrangements prevailing in the water resource plan areas. 	<p>Annual watering priorities for each of the three South Australian Murray-Darling Basin water resource plan areas have been completed, consistent with the requirements of Chapter 8 and were submitted to the MDBA by 31 May 2019.</p> <p>The priorities are available on the DEW website: http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/managing-natural-resources/river-murray/restoring-river-health/environmental-water/environmental-water-planning</p>
<p>[Chapter 8, Part 4] [NPA 8c, d & f]</p>	<p>M10c) Please describe progress in coordination, consultation or cooperation issues with other Basin jurisdictions on the management and delivery of environmental water and opportunities for further improvement.</p>	<p>As part of the planning process the South Australian annual environmental watering priorities were provided to the relevant environmental water holders and water managers (i.e. MDBA, CEWO and upstream states) and used to inform cooperative watering with upstream sites. South Australia also provided feedback on the MDBA and Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder (CEWH) annual water resource outlook, annual priorities and water portfolio plans.</p> <p>South Australia participated in cross-jurisdictional planning groups and advisory committees to help plan and deliver environmental water. In addition to formal meetings, there are routine and regular discussions between the jurisdictions about water planning and delivery.</p> <p>The MDBA, through the Southern Connected Basin Environmental Watering Committee (SCBEWC), coordinated the use of The Living Murray/joint water portfolio and facilitated coordination of watering actions between all environmental water holders. Through this forum, South Australia has highlighted opportunities for the effective use of environmental water to achieve benefits throughout the River Murray system. The CEWO also developed a delivery</p>

		<p>options plan and a watering schedule in collaboration with South Australia describing the preferred use of environmental water and supporting arrangements. Coordination at the State and Basin level has allowed the outcomes of environmental watering to be maximised and continues to develop in terms of cooperation and sophistication.</p> <p>An example of a coordinated event is the Goulburn environmental water winter pulse (July-August 2018) that was timed to support outcomes in the Goulburn River, but also to enable additional benefit in South Australia to encourage and facilitate lamprey movement through the barrages and move upstream.</p> <p>Similar cooperation has occurred during the development of a River Murray channel watering proposal, describing environment requirements along the main stem of the Murray. This proposal will inform and support coordinated River Murray and tributary environmental water releases.</p>
<p>[Chapter 8, Part 4] [NPA 8d]</p>	<p>M10d) Provide at least one case study that demonstrates how environmental watering principles were embedded in the decision-making process and identify the relevant principles <i>[limit 500 w]</i>.</p> <p>M10e) Please provide reasons for any environmental watering that was not in accordance with the Basin annual watering priorities listed at Attachment A (partially/fully), in accordance with Section 8.44 of the Basin Plan and Principle 1 of Division 6.</p> <p>M10f) Confirmation that the management and delivery of planned and held environmental water was consistent with the Basin Plan, including the environmental watering plan's <i>Principles to be applied to environmental watering</i>. If confirming, please provide evidence and examples. If unable to confirm, please describe what actions are underway to enable confirmation in the future.</p> <p><i>The Department's guidance - reporting under M10f) may include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Confirmation that the management and delivery of planned and held environmental water was consistent with the Basin Plan's Principles to be applied to environmental watering, including Principle 4b of Div.6, which states that environmental watering is to be undertaken having regard to the risks of extraction of that water for other uses. - Confirmation that the jurisdiction is making progress in reforming compliance arrangements as reported in the MDBA's 2019 template 'Progress on Compact priority actions'. 	<p>M10d) The Chowilla Floodplain Icon Site on the South Australian/New South Wales border can be inundated at relatively low river flows by the operation of major environmental infrastructure constructed as part of The Living Murray Program (TLM). In spring 2018, over 2000 hectares of floodplain and wetlands were inundated that would otherwise not have been watered due to the low river flow (Principle 2). The timing, scale and duration of the operation of Chowilla is guided by a range of rules directly related to Basin Plan principles. In particular, the operation is scaled to maximise floodplain inundation within acceptable changes to flow velocities and fish habitat within the anabranch (Principle 3 d), and to build on existing flow events and natural cues for watering (Principles 3 c and e). This is consistent with the principles of maximising environmental benefits and managing risks (Principles 3 and 4). Throughout the event, the magnitude of the operation was adjusted according to the prevailing river conditions to be consistent with these principles. Regard was had to potential water quality impacts, with flow conditions and key water quality parameters (including salinity and dissolved oxygen) considered prior to the event and monitored in real time throughout operations to inform adaptive management (Principle 8). In addition, the frequency and duration of the event is influenced by the condition of the floodplain vegetation and the urgency of watering. The Chowilla Floodplain Community Reference Committee provided key input to the planning and delivery of water for the environment at Chowilla (Principle 7). The Chowilla Floodplain team work closely with the First Peoples of the River Murray and Mallee Region through the First Peoples Working Group and the First Peoples Water Coordinator to share knowledge and experience and incorporate their values into icon site management and environmental watering (Principle 3 b). Use of the environmental infrastructure to deliver water for the environment is guided throughout the event by the Chowilla Operations Group, which enables sharing of critical information between site environmental water managers, river operators from SA Water and the MDBA, the water holders (CEWH and TLM), land managers and scientists through weekly teleconferences (Principle 3 g).</p> <p>A description of the 2018 Chowilla Creek environmental regulator operation is available on the DEW website: https://www.environment.sa.gov.au/topics/river-murray/improving-river-health/the-living-murray-program/chowilla-floodplain</p> <p>M10e) Not applicable – environmental watering was in accordance with the Basin annual watering priorities</p> <p>M10f) Management and delivery of planned and held environmental water was consistent with the Basin Plan, including the environmental watering plans principles to be applied to environmental watering.</p> <p>Principle 7: Working effectively with local communities, Principle 8: Adaptive management and Principle 10: Other management and operational practices The South Australian government, CEWH, Community Advisory Panel, Scientific Advisory Group and other organisations worked together to adapt management to achieve outcomes for the Lower Lakes, Coorong, and Murray Mouth in 2018-19. Low flows in 2018-19 increased the risk of cessation of barrage flows in summer and autumn, due to declining lake levels and constrained delivery of water across the South Australian border. DEW worked with community groups, scientists, operators and water holders to prepare and assess a range of lake level and barrage operating scenarios to determine appropriate lake levels and barrage release rates. This required detailed modelling and using advice from all stakeholders. The resultant lake level management and barrage operation ensured the maintenance of barrage flows throughout the year, thus providing continuous fish passage and improved habitat in the Coorong estuary and avoided the lakes dropping to unacceptable levels.</p> <p>South Australia confirms that progress is being made in reforming compliance arrangements, as reported separately in the MDBA's 2019 template, 'Progress on Compact priority actions'.</p>
<p>[Chapter 8, Part 4] [NPA 8a]</p>	<p>M10g) Except as otherwise agreed between the Commonwealth and the relevant State(s) to facilitate improved environmental watering, please confirm that the characteristics of licensed entitlements held for environmental use have not been enhanced or diminished relative to like entitlements held for other purposes.</p>	<p>South Australia confirms that the characteristics of licensed entitlements held in South Australia for environmental use conform with existing agreements and have not been enhanced or diminished relative to like entitlements held for other purposes.</p>

	<p><i>The Department's guidance - reporting may include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where proposals to trade environmental water have not been supported, evidence of likely adverse third party impacts should also be provided. 	
<p>[Chapter 8, Part 4] [NPA 8b]</p>	<p>M10h) Where feasible and agreed by the relevant Basin State, and where third party impacts have been considered, confirm that measures have been implemented to facilitate the use of environmental water by protecting environmental water in-stream and on land.</p> <p>M10i) Describe how has the State facilitated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the delivery of environmental water in-stream through arrangements such as water shepherding to facilitate environmental flows (NPA 8(b)(i)) and, the further use of environmental water at multiple locations, such as through return flow provisions (NPA 8(b)(ii)). <p>M10j) Where interim measures have been implemented, please describe what actions are underway, or proposed, to implement enduring measures that will facilitate longer-term protection and use of environmental water.</p> <p>If unable to confirm, please describe what actions are underway to enable confirmation in the future.</p> <p><i>The Department's guidance - reporting under M10h, i) and j) may include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Confirmation that arrangements are in place to protect environmental flows and allow reuse of environmental water at multiple locations. Please indicate where these arrangements are specified. Reporting on the implementation of Prerequisite Policy Measures should also be provided. Where these measures have not been fully implemented, please indicate what future actions are planned to ensure implementation by June 2019, for example through the preparation and accreditation of Water Resource Plans. 	<p>M10h) Environmental water instream is protected from non-environmental uses through provisions in the South Australian River Murray WAP, adopted in February 2019, that prevent the use of any additional flow above Entitlement Flow for consumptive purposes. These protections have been further enhanced by the development of DEW policies and procedures for environmental water management, prepared as part of the Basin Plan Pre-requisite Policy Measures requirements.</p> <p>The Eastern Mount Lofty Ranges (EMLR) Long-Term Watering Plan is based on the EMLR WAP, that contains measures to protect water in-stream - i.e. by maintaining base flow and enabling low-flow bypasses on dams.</p> <p>M10i) South Australia does not 'shepherd' water, but there are provisions in the South Australian River Murray water allocation plan that prevent the use of any flow above Entitlement Flow or any South Australian held environmental entitlements for consumptive purposes. This protects return flows from environmental watering actions that occur upstream and within the state. For example, if environmental water is provided for the operation of the Chowilla Regulator and/or during weir pool raising, the return flow can be used to achieve benefits along the River Murray Channel and at the CLLMM. It should also be noted that water cannot be re-regulated in South Australia.</p> <p>Consistent with the requirement of the South Australian Prerequisite Policy Measures Implementation Plan, South Australia is implementing a suite of policies and procedures for the management of environmental water and return flow within South Australia (see https://www.mdba.gov.au/sites/default/files/pubs/Prerequisite%20Policy%20Measures%20Implementation%20in%20South%20Australia.pdf).</p> <p>M10j) Environmental flows are protected from consumptive use in South Australia by WAPs. WAPs also protect return flow from environmental watering actions for re-use downstream. South Australia is also implementing a suite of policies and procedures for the management and protection of environmental water and return flow consistent with the requirement of the South Australian Prerequisite Policy Measures Implementation Plan. South Australia has undertaken the actions described in the State Prerequisite Policy Measures Implementation Plan.</p>

Matter 13: Critical Human Water Needs

Reporting Matter	Reporting Requirement (Supporting evidence to be provided by Basin States)	Response (response/milestone achievement/compliance status)
<p>M13 The implementation, where necessary, of the emergency response process for critical human water needs.</p> <p>[Chapter 11] [BPIA 26.1]</p>	<p><i>Context: The Guideline for the triggers and processes for changing water sharing Tiers provides guidance on how the MDBA and Basin States should communicate if the triggers are reached.</i></p> <p>M13a) Please indicate if a water quality trigger (as per s11.05) was reached and if so, what action was taken.</p>	<p>No water quality trigger was reached in 2018-19.</p>
<p>Chapter 11] [BPIA 27.1, 27.2, 28.1]</p>	<p><i>Context: (i) The MDBA will provide New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia with Water Resource Assessments, from which the States make decisions about allocations. Assessments will be provided at least monthly, and more frequently if conditions warrant.</i></p> <p><i>(ii) During periods of Tier 3 water sharing arrangements, the MDBA will</i></p>	<p>No periods of Tier 2 or 3 water sharing arrangements occurred in 2018-19.</p> <p>South Australia had regard to advice provided by the MDBA in its water availability assessments when making water allocation decisions.</p>

	<p>provide the Ministerial Council with Water Resource Assessments, from which New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia make decisions about allocations when determining if water can be made available for uses other than critical human water. Assessments will be provided at least monthly, and more frequently if conditions warrant.</p> <p>(iii) A Basin State must have regard to advice from the Authority regarding the volume of water to be made available to it in a particular year, when making decisions about whether water is made available for uses other than meeting critical human water needs (s11.08(3)).</p> <p>(iv) The MDBA, through the preparation of the Water Resource Assessment will determine if the appropriate conditions apply. If New South Wales, Victoria or South Australia considers the triggers have been reached, its BOC member should advise the Executive Director, River Management Division, MDBA. The Guideline for triggers and processes for changing water sharing Tiers provides more information on how the MDBA will communicate a change in water sharing arrangements to the Basin States, CEWH and the Department.</p> <p>M13b) Please indicate if a trigger was reached and what action was taken to implement water sharing arrangements.</p>	
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Matter 14: Water Quality and Salinity

Reporting Matter	Reporting Requirement (Supporting evidence to be provided by Basin States)	Response (response/milestone achievement/compliance status)
<p>M14 Progress the implementation of water quality and salinity management plan, including the extent to which regard is had to the targets in Chapter 9 when making flow management decisions.</p> <p>[Chapter 9] [BPIA 21.1]</p>	<p><i>Context: BP Ch9.14 recognises that flow management, in some circumstances, can assist with the management of water quality issues, such as salinity, hypoxic blackwater events and blue green algae outbreaks. The intent of s9.14 is that 'having regard' to these risks and opportunities becomes part of business as usual when making decisions about flow management or the use of environmental water. Other actions that can also address water quality issues include coordination and communication about blue green algae outbreaks (in line with BP s9.18) or hypoxic blackwater events.</i></p> <p>M14a) In this context, please describe how these water quality issues were considered, when making decisions about flow management or the use of environmental water, and/or other actions; did this make a difference to these water quality issues, and are there any learnings to inform adaptive management.</p>	<p>The South Australian River Murray Operating Plan and the Annual Environmental Watering Plan guide transparent and coordinated River Murray operational decisions in South Australia, in a manner consistent with and which has regard for Basin Plan objectives. The plans document the objectives and outcomes sought under a range of climate and inflow scenarios, describe how the desired outcomes are proposed to be delivered and identify how the River Murray in South Australia may be routinely operated under a number of potential water availability scenarios. During 2018-19, flow management and environmental watering decisions were made on a daily basis by DEW, consistent with the objectives and outcomes of these plans.</p> <p>A River Murray action request is required to be submitted by any person, or organisation, proposing to undertake an action that takes water from, or returns water to, the River Murray in South Australia. The purpose of the River Murray action request is to capture specific details of all actions being undertaken and enable the impacts of the action (or cumulative actions) to be considered, such as risks to water quality. River Murray action requests provide sufficient information to make a prompt decision to undertake, modify, or not undertake a proposed action, given the conditions in the river at the time the event is proposed.</p> <p>During 2018-19, a total of 52 River Murray action requests were submitted to DEW relating to wetland management, increasing flows through regulators, floodplain management, weir pool raising and lowering and testing injection bores. All requests were assessed for their individual and cumulative impacts on the River Murray and downstream users and all requests were deemed as low risk to water quality. Water quality monitoring is required, prior to and after actions, to ensure the action did not result in an unintended consequence.</p>
<p>[Chapter 9] [BPIA 23.1]</p>	<p><i>Context: The MDBA, the BOC, 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 of the Murray-Darling Basin Agreement (including the Basin Salinity Management Strategy Operational Protocols).</i></p> <p>M14b) Please indicate how salinity (and other) water quality targets are being applied. (Note that Basin States may refer to Basin Salinity Management 2030 Strategy reporting to meet this reporting requirement, in line with the Schedule 12 Reporting Guidelines).</p>	<p>South Australia will address this reporting requirement through the provision of Basin Salinity Management 2030 reporting under Schedule B of the Murray-Darling Basin Agreement.</p>

Matter 16: Water Trading

Reporting Matter	Reporting Requirement (Supporting evidence to be provided by Basin States)	Response (response/milestone achievement/compliance status)
<p>M16 The implementation of water trading rules.</p> <p>[Chapter 12]</p>	<p>M16 a) Provide website links to the publication of information regarding an Approval Authority's interest in a trade (s12.38 (2)).</p>	<p>South Australia is compliant with the requirements of sections 12.37, 12.38, 12.39 and 12.50.</p> <p>s 12.37 and 12.38 Notice and disclosure of an interest in a trade</p>

[BPIA 29.1 – 31.1]	<p>M16b) Provide documentation to support compliance with s12.37 (notice of disclosure)</p> <p>M16c) Describe how you have notified affected parties with the decision to restrict a trade and reasons for the restriction consistent with s12.39.</p> <p>M16 d) How has your State undertaken best endeavours to ensure water announcements have been made generally available?</p> <p>M16 e) Provide documentation that supports a compliance with s12.50 (water announcements to be made generally available).</p>	<p>Delegates of the Minister for Environment and Water, as the Approval Authority, provide a declaration to the parties to a trade if the Minister has an interest in a trade. The Minister for Environment and Water engages in trade primarily for the purpose of managing environmental assets, including the Living Murray Icon sites. To support market integrity and confidence and ensure compliance with s 12.49 to 12.52 of the water trading rules, DEW has separate administrative and decision-making functions for trade approval and trading. These arrangements are supported by a Policy and Procedure for Managing Sensitive Water Market information and trading.</p> <p>Trade by the Minister for Environment and Water is publicly disclosed on Water Connect: https://www.waterconnect.sa.gov.au/Systems/WTR/Pages/Default.aspx</p> <p>12.39 Notice of reasons for restricting trade DEW gives notice to each party involved in a trade when it decides to restrict the trade of a water access right. The notice of disclosure to each party includes detail on the decision to restrict the trade and the reasons for the decision. Notice is provided as soon as practicable but, in any case, within 30 days after the decision. The reasons for refusing a trade comply with both the Basin Plan water trading rules and state the relevant provision of a WAP (if relevant) or reasons, such as inter-valley trade limits being reached, an invalid application form being lodged or insufficient water available on a holder's account.</p> <p>s 12.50 Water Announcements to be made generally available DEW made a number of water announcements during 2018-19 which were all made generally available. All announcements are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Released as a Media Release to radio, print, electronic and social media. Uploaded on DEW's website: www.environment.sa.gov.au. Reported in the weekly "River Murray Flow Report", which is emailed to approximately 1000 recipients and also made available on the DEW website. <p>The 2018-19 opening water allocation announcement was published in the South Australian Government Gazette. Copies of announcements and 'water allocation statements' can be found on the DEW website: https://www.environment.sa.gov.au/topics/river-murray/water-allocation-and-carryover/water-allocations-and-announcements</p>
[Chapter 12] [NPA 6d] [BPIA 29.1 – 31.1]	<p>M16 f) Report on interstate and intrastate trade processing times (as per the COAG service and reporting standards for trade processing times).</p>	<p>M16 f) South Australia is compliant with the COAG service and reporting standards for trade processing times. Trading information for the South Australian River Murray is updated on or before the 7th day of every month and published on Water Connect: https://www.waterconnect.sa.gov.au/Systems/WTR/Pages/Default.aspx</p> <p>In 2018-19, 100 per cent of interstate allocation trade and 100 per cent of entitlement trade applications were processed within the agreed trade service standard times.</p>
	<p>M16 g) Provide confirmation that applications for entitlement and allocation trades to which the Commonwealth was a party were processed consistent with the agreed service standards.</p>	<p>M16 g) South Australia can confirm that applications for entitlement and allocation trades, to which the Commonwealth was a party, were also processed consistent with the agreed service standards.</p>
[Chapter 12.02 – 12.27] [NPA 6a] [BPIA 29.1]	<p>M16h) Report progress made in the last year in removing unnecessary restrictions on allocation trade in surface water systems including those MDBA identified as priorities in each Basin state.</p>	<p>M16h) The status has not changed since 2017-18 and South Australia's water trading activity is consistent with the Basin Plan water trading rules.</p>
	<p>M16i) Confirmation of the removal of volumetric or other barriers to permanent trade out of water irrigation areas that are inconsistent with the Basin Plan water trading rules.</p> <p><i>The Department's guidance - reporting may include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Please advise if any new restrictions have been introduced. The intention is to ensure that all barriers to permanent water trade have been resolved prior to the conclusion of the NPA, or else it has been agreed the issue is not material to Basin water reform. If the status of any matter has not changed since 2017-18 reporting, this will suffice as the response.</i> 	<p>M16i) South Australia has not implemented any new restrictions on trade.</p>
[NPA 6e]	<p>M16j) Confirmation that surface water entitlements in regulated systems are consistent with clauses 28 to 32 of the NWI, unless where otherwise agreed by the Commonwealth.</p>	<p>Surface water entitlements in South Australia are consistent with clauses 28 to 32 of the NWI.</p>
Information and reporting requirements		
[Chapter 12.43, 12.46] [BPIA 31.1]	<p>M16k) Has the Basin State made any changes to the water access rights displayed on the MDBA's Water Market products page? If so what documentation has been provided to the MDBA with the updated</p>	<p>M16k) South Australia has made some changes to South Australian River Murray water access rights displayed on the MDBA's Water Market products page in connection with amendments to the River Murray WAP. Documentation was supplied to the MDBA: https://www.mdba.gov.au/managing-water/water-markets-trade/water-markets-product-information/sa</p>

	information as required under s12.43? M16i) Has the Basin State implemented any new trade rules that regulate the trade of tradable water access rights? If so have they provided these rules to the MDBA as required under s12.46?	M16i) South Australia has not implemented any new trade rules that regulate the trade of tradable water access rights.
[Chapter 12] [BPIA 31.2]	M16m) Has the Basin State sold water in the previous year? If so, did they notify the approval or registration authority of the price agreed for the trade?	The Minister for Environment and Water has traded water allocations and entitlements during 2018-19 and reports the price (including \$0) in connection with relevant trade applications submitted to the approval or registration authority. Trade by the Minister for Environment and Water is publicly disclosed on Water Connect, including information relating to the agreed price of trade: https://www.waterconnect.sa.gov.au/Systems/WTR/Pages/Default.aspx

Other: Sustainable diversion limits

Reporting Matter	Reporting Requirement (Supporting evidence to be provided by Basin States)	Response (response/milestone achievement/compliance status)
[NPA 6c]	<p>Oa) Confirmation that no action has been taken to impede Commonwealth measures to acquire water for environmental purposes, except where consistent with the Basin Plan water trading rules.</p> <p><i>The Department's guidance - reporting may include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Where further water recovery is required to Bridge the Gap, provide evidence of support for Commonwealth measures to acquire water for environmental purposes, such as actions to support Commonwealth funded infrastructure programs and strategic water purchases. - Where support was not provided for a water recovery program, please provide an explanatory statement. - Reporting is only required in cases where further water recovery is required and water recovery programs have not achieved their water recovery targets. - Evidence of support that state led (Commonwealth funded) projects have been managed in way that supported the recovery of water. 	<p>South Australia can confirm that it has not impeded Commonwealth measures to acquire water for environmental purposes.</p> <p>As a result of the 605 gigalitres Sustainable Diversion Limit adjustment decision, South Australia is not currently required to recover any more water to 'bridge the gap'.</p> <p>South Australia has actively and cooperatively participated in environmental water recovery efforts, as well as measures to recover environmental water through efficiency measures (e.g. Commonwealth On-farm Further Irrigation Efficiency program) and water recovery programs (e.g. South Australian River Murray Sustainability program).</p>

Other: SDL Adjustment & Constraints Management

Reporting Matter	Reporting Requirement (Supporting evidence to be provided by Basin States)	Response (response/milestone achievement/compliance status)
[NPA 7] [BPIA 14.2]	<p>Ob) Describe progress in the further development of the Ministerial Council agreed package of constraints proposals, and in addressing issues identified in the phased assessment process.</p> <p>Oc) Describe progress towards the successful implementation of constraints measures by 2024, including coordinated cross-jurisdictional activities and community involvement, to enable flow rates of up to 80,000ML per day at the South Australian border.</p>	<p>In December 2018, the Ministerial Council endorsed the Constraints Measures Program Coordinating Work Plan to provide a coordinated, cross-jurisdictional approach for addressing constraints that enables strong community involvement and a staged implementation approach. South Australia prepared and implemented the Coordinating Work Plan as a member of the Constraints Measures Working Group, with representatives from the Victorian, New South Wales and Commonwealth governments as well as the MDBA. The Working Group prepared the first milestone report for Ministerial Council on implementation of the Coordinating Work Plan by June 2019, including a risk management strategy to address the issues identified in the phased assessment process.</p> <p>In April 2019, the Commonwealth and South Australian ministers executed the Project Agreement Schedule for the River Murray in South Australia Constraints Measure. The schedule sits under the overarching Project Agreement signed by relevant Basin Ministers in December 2018 to implement the next stage of supply and constraints measures across the Basin. The Schedule provides South Australia with up to \$2.5 million of Commonwealth funds from 2019-20 to 2021-22 to co-design practical, on-ground works with local communities to enable flow rates of up to 80,000 megalitres per day at the South Australian border. South Australia met the first milestone by 30 June 2019, which was to prepare a project plan and establish the project governance arrangements and project team.</p>

Other: Water Resource Plans

Reporting Matter	Reporting Requirement (Supporting evidence to be provided by Basin States)	Response (response/milestone achievement/compliance status)
[applicable to overall NPA] [BPIA 24.1]	<p><i>Context: Progress with the development of Water Resource Plans for accreditation is currently being reported by the MDBA, through quarterly jurisdictional reports to the Basin Plan Implementation Committee and The Department will rely on reporting through BPIC. States only need to report where they wish to add further detail or clarification. Applicable to overall NPA assessment of progress as flagged in the 2017-18 NPA assessment.</i></p> <p>Od) This reporting is <u>optional</u>. Basin states may choose to comment on their progress where this differs, or is expected to differ, from the most recent MDBA quarterly report on WRP development.</p>	<p>South Australia submitted its first water resource plan, the South Australian Murray Region in 2018 and two remaining plans, Eastern Mount Lofty Ranges and South Australian River Murray in February 2019.</p> <p>South Australia's Murray Region water resource plan was accredited by the Commonwealth Minister on 20 August 2019. The other two plans are currently being assessed by the MDBA. An extension for Eastern Mount Lofty Ranges and South Australian River Murray water resource plans was requested, as contingency planning, to allow for any changes that may be required during the MDBA's assessment. This extension until 31 December 2019 has been granted by the Commonwealth Minister.</p>

Attachment A: Basin Environmental Watering Priorities (BAEWP) for reference in reporting why watering not undertaken in accordance, under BPs8.44

The table below provides a reference for exception-based reporting under BPs8.44. The table lists Basin annual environmental watering priorities for 2018-19 and the relevant jurisdiction. [See attachment in separate document]