

Information collection template for water year 2015-16

Table of Contents

Reporting context.....	1
A. Local Knowledge and Stakeholder Engagement	3
B. Environmental Watering	6
C. Water Quality and Salinity Management.....	9
D. Water Trading.....	12
E. Northern Basin Review	16
F. SDL Adjustment & Constraints Management.....	17
G. Critical Human Water Needs	19
H. Water Resource Plans.....	21
Statement of reasons why watering not undertaken complying Basin Environmental Watering Priorities (BAEWP) for 2015–16 (Refer Matter 10 – Indicator 10.3 and BP IA Task 20.2)	23

The ACT Environment and Planning Directorate 2015–16 annual report to satisfy reporting obligations for:

- Basin Plan Schedule 12 responses
- National Partnerships Agreement assurance of milestone achievement
- Basin Plan Implementation Agreement self-assessment of compliance with implementation tasks

Reporting context

This template provides for one Commonwealth information collection point, which can be used multiple times to meet Basin State reporting obligations in relation to the Murray-Darling Basin Plan.

Our aim is to reduce duplication, improve transparency and increase efficiency of reporting. The template has been tailored to address information requirements for the 2015-16 reporting year and will be updated for each subsequent reporting period.

At this point in time, the information collection template is designed to satisfy reporting obligations for Basin Plan Schedule 12, Basin Plan Implementation Agreement (BPIA) compliance requirements and the milestone assessments of the National Partnership Agreement (NPA) on Implementing Water Reform in the Murray-Darling Basin. Reporting for Schedule 12 Matter 9 (the identification and use of environmental water) is reported elsewhere. Matter 9, indicators 9.1 and 9.2, are reported through

existing Water Act s71 and s32 reporting requirements and Matter 9, indicator 9.3, is reported through the *Mater 9.3 reporting template*.

The Department of Agriculture and Water Resources will use the information provided in this template as well as multiple other sources to meet NPA reporting requirements. For example, reporting against NPA milestones 6c and 8a is not specifically required as information will be gathered from within the Department, the MDBA and the Commonwealth Environmental Water Office.

A. Local Knowledge and Stakeholder Engagement

Reporting Matter	Supporting evidence to be provided by Basin States	Response (response/milestone achievement/compliance status)
<i>The extent to which local knowledge and solutions inform the implementation of the Basin Plan</i>		
<p>A1 The outcome of engagement on the implementation of the Basin Plan</p> <p><i>Applicable to Schedule 12, Matter 6, Indicator 6.1 and NPA 8e</i></p>	<p>Descriptive statement. Where possible include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How local knowledge and solutions were used by the reporter • How involving communities made a difference to Basin Plan implementation • How decisions changed as a result of community involvement • How environmental watering in regulated catchments has occurred having regard to the views of local communities and persons materially affected by the management of environmental water • Local knowledge might include knowledge drawn from Traditional Owners and other Aboriginal people and groups • When reporting on Aboriginal participation and influence, processes of involvement may be as important as outcomes. <p>In 2015/16 reporting, we would expect use of local knowledge to feature in development of Water Resource Plans and the management of environmental water.</p> <p>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>The Environment and Planning Directorate has engaged the local community to assist with the development of the ACT's Water Resource Plan. The knowledge drawn from the various groups has been used to assist in the development of various aspects of the ACT's water resource plan. More specifically, the engagement with key stakeholders has enabled the ACT to address more comprehensively and on an informed basis the matter of risk assessment.</p> <p>An outcome developed with Rural Landholders was that rural water was to be clearly identified in the Water Resource Plan as a significant component of water use in the ACT and critical for sustainable farm management and agricultural production. The Rural Leaseholders also requested that they be kept informed and as a result the Upper Murrumbidgee Catchment Coordinating Committee that represents a number of community groups including the Rural Landholders, have been made part of the governance structure of the new ACT and Region Catchment Management Coordination Group. The Coordination Group considers water issues but also catchment management more broadly.</p> <p>The ACT water utility, Icon Water, has also been consulted on a range of matters related to the development of the ACT Water Resource Plan including the demand model to account for water use.</p> <p>Through a number of workshops and meetings continual engagement occurred with different representatives from local indigenous groups including the Buru Ngunawal Aboriginal Corporation, King Brown Tribal Group, Little Gudgenby River Tribal Group, and Ngarigu Currawong Clan. The United Ngunawal Elders Council has provided advice on particular indigenous issues such as cultural flow health index and developments and the path to indigenous water values and uses. The advice on these issues has been developed with the community and incorporated into the draft ACT WRP. Additionally, the ACT in collaboration with the MDBA conducted a field trip throughout the ACT over a one week period to capture the water values and uses and priorities of the Indigenous community. The ACT is committed to increasing the level of involvement of traditional owners in water planning and management and is working to enrich the draft WRP by the inclusion</p>

Reporting Matter	Supporting evidence to be provided by Basin States	Response (response/milestone achievement/compliance status)
<p>A2 Processes used to identify stakeholders and other relevant groups and individuals from local communities and peak bodies</p> <p><i>Applicable to Schedule 12, Matter 6, Indicator 6.2 and NPA 8e</i></p>	<p>Descriptive statement. Where possible include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Process used to identify stakeholders and other relevant groups and individuals 	<p>of cultural water objectives and outcomes.</p> <p>The ACT Government through the Environment and Planning Directorate (EPD) has been utilising local knowledge and information in preparing and implementing those aspects of the Basin Plan that are relevant to the ACT. The involvement of local groups and stakeholders and the use of local knowledge and information are exemplified in the ACT's development of its draft Water Resource Plan.</p> <p>The ACT has long and well developed processes to identify key stakeholders to inform the implementation of the Basin Plan. For example the ACT had already identified the key local stakeholders throughout the development and implementation of similar works to the Basin Plan, such as the ACT Water Strategy and the ACT and Region Catchment Management Coordination Group. The ACT has a relatively large and diverse number of stakeholders. EPD has and maintains close relationships with the key stakeholders that relate to water and water resource planning.</p> <p>For instance, EPD works closely with the one ACT water utility, Icon Water, during utility performance reporting, regular water quality monitoring and water trade obligations such as the Living Murray Initiative. Similarly, EPD has maintained relationships with other key stakeholders including the National Capital Authority (responsible for Lake Burley Griffin), the NSW Government, and surrounding local governments (Queanbeyan-Palerang, Yass and Snowy-Monaro), the rural lessees, water experts and key community groups (including through the community umbrella Upper Murrumbidgee Catchment Coordinating Group) that have previously assisted and advised on the development of the ACT Water Strategy or review of the Environmental Flow Guidelines.</p> <p>The ACT, in partnership with the Murray-Darling Basin Authority, conducted a series of indigenous engagement workshops to develop an Aboriginal Waterways Assessment Tool. The identification of the local Indigenous community was made through EPD's designated Aboriginal Natural Resource Management Facilitator who was able to identify members within the local Representative Aboriginal Organisations (RAO's) to initiate engagement with the ACT regional indigenous communities on aspects of the water resource plan.</p> <p>The ACT has also been consulting with New South Wales on various aspects of water resource planning and environmental management particularly with respect to catchment</p>

Reporting Matter	Supporting evidence to be provided by Basin States	Response (response/milestone achievement/compliance status)
		<p>management and improving water quality.</p> <p>Note: the ACT has limited involvement in a number of Basin Plan water recovery projects, such as constraints measures and efficiency measures that involve community groups more broadly.</p>
<p>A3 How stakeholders and other relevant groups and individuals were engaged</p> <p>The outcome of engagement on the implementation of the Basin Plan</p> <p><i>Applicable to Schedule 12, Matter 6, Indicator 6.3 and NPA 8e</i></p>	<p>Descriptive statement. Where possible include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Range of audiences engaged • Range of opportunities (types of engagement) <p>Relate these to the Basin Plan obligations to have regard to local views (Chapter 8 and 10)</p>	<p>The Environment and Planning Directorate targeted one-on-one consultations with a number of key stakeholders, agencies and groups on the draft ACT Water Resource Plan.</p> <p>These included</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Icon Water - ACT water experts, including Professor Ian Falconer (Independent Chair of the ACT and Region Catchment Management Coordinating Committee) and Mr Ian Lawrence, - ACT Government Directors-General Water Group which comprise the Directors General of Chief Ministers, Treasury, Economic Development Directorate, Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate, Health Directorate, Land Development and Emergency Service Agency. - NSW Government. In particular Department of Primary Industries and Water - Rural Landholders Association - MLDRIN - Canberra Hydrological Society - Australian Water Association - Office of the Commissioner for Environment and Sustainability <p>The Directorate invited the community via web advertisements and social media to attend two public consultations sessions to present and allow feedback on the draft ACT Water Resource Plan. The first consultation was held in the Canberra Museum and Gallery Theatre, London Circuit, City from 12:30-14:00 on 23 June 2016. The second consultation was held from 12:30-14:00 on 6 July 2016 at the Belconnen Community Arts Centre, Emu Bank, Belconnen.</p> <p>Additionally, the following requested copies of the draft ACT Water Resource Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NSW Dept of Primary Industries

Reporting Matter	Supporting evidence to be provided by Basin States	Response (response/milestone achievement/compliance status)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Queanbeyan & Palerang Regional Council - SMEC Australia - Alluvium - DELWP Victorian Government - ACT Office of the Commissioner for the Environment and Sustainability <p>The ACT has worked and continues to work closely with these groups over a number of years and on a range of policy developments. Engagement with these groups was mainly through meetings and workshops. For example, EPD had previously established a panel of local scientific water experts to draw on when independent expert advice is required. This panel was approached for consultation on the assessment of the ACT's risk assessment process for the Water Resource Plan.</p> <p>A number of meetings were held with Indigenous representatives in regard to the development of the Aboriginal Waterways Assessment Tool to outline water resource planning, how the tool can consistently measure and prioritise river and wetland health so that the community are better placed to negotiate for their objectives, water values and uses. These meetings also covered what expectations were required of those participating and highlighted issues regarding the intellectual property rights of the tool once complete. Murray Lower Darling Rivers Indigenous Nations group (MLDRDN) have also been consulted on the development of the draft ACT Water Resource Plan and are working with us to improve consideration of cultural water in the Plan.</p>

B. Environmental Watering

Reporting Matter	Supporting evidence to be provided by Basin States	Response (milestone achievement/compliance status)
<i>The implementation of the environmental management framework (Part 4 of Chapter 8)</i>		
<p>B1 Long-term watering plans were prepared, with the required content, published, reviewed and updated as obligated under Part 4 of Chapter 8, Divisions 3.</p> <p><i>Applicable to Schedule 12,</i></p>	<p>Each Basin State will prepare long-term watering plans aligning with the Plan's surface water resource plan areas.</p> <p>The level of detail in a long-term watering plan will vary according to local conditions, levels of development and regulation, the influence on other</p>	<p>The ACT drafted a long term watering plan as a component or section of the draft ACT Water Resource Plan based on the ACT's environmental flow guidelines. The aim was to provide a strong link between the MDBA's Basin-wide environmental watering strategy (2014) and the approach taken by the ACT for environmental watering, given the particular nature of the provision of environmental watering in the ACT.</p> <p>The MDBA informally assessed the draft ACT Water Resource Plan and provided a</p>

<p><i>Matter 10, Indicator 10.1; NPA 8f and BPIA 18.1</i></p>	<p>water resources, and statutory and other arrangements prevailing in the surface water resource plan area.</p> <p>A long-term watering plan may provide that an existing or other specified instrument or text comprises or is part of a Basin State's plan.</p> <p>The plans will be developed by dates agreed between the MDBA and each Basin State.</p> <p>The MDBA and each Basin State will separately agree on what further material would be required for each of the State's long-term watering plans. As part of this, the MDBA and each Basin State will also agree on the standards required for this material.</p>	<p>commentary on a number of issues. The Authority has suggested that consideration should be given to seeking a formal extension on the ACT Interim WRP to 30 June 2019. The MDBA have argued this approach would enable the alignment of the ACT WRP with the NSW Murrumbidgee WRP which is due at that time, enabling both jurisdictions to progress trade and other issues in parallel. This would also allow for the review of revised ACT environmental flow guidelines due in 2018. These Guidelines have been subject to expert scientific review.</p> <p>As some issues raised by the Authority are deemed fundamental to the drafting approach made on the existing draft WRP, the ACT is considering the merit of seeking an extension to the ACT's interim WRP. If an extension is sought the ACT would also consider separating out components of the draft WRP, including drafting a separate long term water resource plan to facilitate the Authority's approval process.</p> <p>The ACT's existing environmental flow guidelines have provided significant amounts of environmental water over a number of years and met the ACT's ecological objectives including during the Millennium drought.</p>
<p>B2 Annual priorities were prepared, with the required content, published, reviewed and updated as obligated under Part 4 of Chapter 8, Divisions 4</p> <p><i>Applicable to Schedule 12, Matter 10, Indicator 10.1; NPA 8c and BPIA 19.1</i></p>	<p>The level of detail for annual environmental watering priorities will vary according to local conditions, levels of development and regulation, influence on other water resources and statutory and other arrangements in the water resource plan area.</p> <p>The principle of fit for purpose management will inform the development and assessment of annual environmental watering priorities by Basin States and the MDBA respectively.</p> <p>Basin States will submit their annual environmental watering priorities (AEWP) or other relevant instrument as agreed with the MDBA, for the purposes of identifying the Basin annual environmental watering priorities for the water resource plan areas.</p>	<p>The ACT provides environmental watering through the primacy given to its legislated environmental flows framework.</p> <p>The ACT does not have any Held Environmental Water (HEW) therefore the ACT does not make decisions about when and where to use HEW.</p> <p>The only Planned Environmental Waters are within the water storage catchments managed by Icon Water.</p> <p>In regard to planned environmental flow releases by Icon Water regulated through the ACT environmental flow guidelines, a holistic approach was adopted for the setting of environmental flows (originally based on the work of Dr. A. H. Arthington). The approach within the guidelines identifies the essential features of the flow regime, including the natural variability, seasonal variation, floods and intermittent dry periods. The guideline specifies the ecological objectives for the territory's aquatic ecosystems and specifies the surface water rules to maintain the relevant aquatic ecosystems. These rules are conditions of the ICON Water licence to manage and extract water. The ACT's environmental flows approach is routinely updated and improved.</p> <p>The ACT is presenting its approach to environmental watering in its water resource plan and has had discussions with the MDBA on this aspect. As the ACT does not have any held environmental water it is not necessary for the ACT to have in place an environmental water holder.</p>

<p>B3 Watering strategies, plans and priorities are prepared consistently with Part 4 of Chapter 8, in relation to coordinating, consulting and cooperating with other Reporters and the matters to which regard must be had (Chapter 8, Part 4)</p> <p><i>Applicable to Schedule 12, Matter 10, Indicator 10.2; NPA 8c, 8d and 8f and BPIA 20.1</i></p>	<p>a. Describe how coordination, consultation and cooperation occurred including with other governments in preparing watering strategies, plans and priorities, as obligated in Part 4 of Chapter 8, as well as the matters to which regard must be had</p> <p>b. Describe how coordination, consultation and cooperation made a difference</p>	<p>The ACT and NSW have held discussions on environmental watering and agree that there may be opportunity for improved outcomes from coordinated environmental water releases in the Murrumbidgee River system. Alignment of the timing of the ACT and Murrumbidgee Water Resource Plans would allow for further consideration of these opportunities.</p> <p>The development of the ACT’s environmental flow guidelines involved community consultation and ongoing input from the freshwater ecology scientific community.</p>
<p>B4 How Environmental watering principles were applied consistent with Chapter 8, Part 4, Division 6.</p> <p><i>Applicable to Schedule 12, Matter 10, Indicator 10.3; NPA 8b and 8d and BPIA 20.2</i></p>	<p>a. Provide at least one case study that demonstrates how environmental watering principles were applied and identify the relevant principles.</p> <p>b. Provide reasons for any environmental watering that was not in accordance with annual watering priorities (please provide answer in the <i>statement of reasons</i> table at bottom of this document).</p> <p>c. Where feasible and agreed by the relevant basin state, confirmation that measures have been implemented to facilitate the use of environmental water through water shepherding and return flow provisions.</p>	<p>Planned environmental watering occurs in the ACT in terms of the Water Resources Act 2007 and the ACT’s environmental flow guidelines. Options to apply environmental watering to different catchments are not relevant to the ACT.</p>

C. Water Quality and Salinity Management

Reporting Matter	Supporting evidence to be provided by Basin States	Response (milestone achievement/compliance status)
<p>Implementation of the 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>C1 Regard had to the targets in s9.14 when managing water flows <i>Applicable to Schedule 12, Matter 14, Indicator 14.1 and BPIA 21.1</i></p>	<p>Summary of how the Authority and Basin States ‘had regard’ to water quality targets when managing water flows. Statement that procedures and tools were in place, and how these were used in the reporting year. Reporters to provide a case study where possible.</p>	<p>The ACT Environmental Protection Regulations 2005 sets out a range of water quality objectives and criteria related to the protection of each designated environmental and use value as prescribed in the ACT’s Territory Plan. A set of secondary or loading water quality criteria is also identified in the Regulations in respect to the urban lakes, the Murrumbidgee River and Burrinjuck Reservoir. The ACT Guidelines for Recreational Water Quality 2010 monitors blue green algal concentrations and levels of faecal coliforms throughout Canberra’s lakes. In 2012, the National Capital Authority released their revised Lake Burley Griffin Water Quality Management Plan, containing recommended water quality guides in respect to protection of lake ecosystems, aesthetic values, recreational waters, and irrigation water supply that specifically targets the waters of Lake Burley Griffin. The ACT Aquatic Species and Riparian Zone Conservation Strategy 2007 seeks to maintain and improve the natural integrity of the rivers and riparian zones in the ACT within a regional context. In fact the strategy was reviewed in 2013 which highlighted activities that should lead to more native fish and plants, less erosion, improved water flow and fewer weeds in the longer term.</p> <p>The ACT is situated largely within the upper reaches and hence less regulated part of the Murrumbidgee River system (apart from the ACT’s water supply dams). The environmental flow guidelines protect base flows in unregulated rivers and abstraction in unregulated rivers and require environmental watering releases from the water supply dams. These flows effectively ensure that streams are generally meeting the appropriate water quality targets.</p> <p>A good example of how the ACT continually develops tools and policy towards improved water management is the ACT Water Strategy (Striking the Balance, ESDD 2014a). The ACT Water Strategy identifies the strategies and the actions that will assist the ACT in achieving the water quality outcomes, which are aligned with the Basin water quality objectives. For example, Strategy 2 is to ‘Protect and restore aquatic ecosystems in urban and non-urban areas’ and sets out the three following actions: 1. Improve water quality and ecosystem health in the ACT and region’s rivers, lakes, aquifers, ponds and wetlands;</p>

		<p>2. Ensure appropriate management (volume, timing, and quality) of environmental flows; and 3. Strengthen compliance and enforcement for water resource management.</p> <p>The ACT Water Strategy continues to follow a number of progressive policy positions that strengthen the sustainable management of water within the environment, such as the approach of the ACT's Water Resource Act 2007 that has the key principle that the environment is prioritised with water first, then the consumptive water allocation is determined. Additionally, the environmental flow guidelines are set to determine the amount of water needed to maintain aquatic ecosystems of the ACT.</p> <p>The Water Strategy not only contains required actions but also measureable targets and performance indicators. The approach taken by the ACT to develop further procedures and tools provides a good example of policy development focused on water quality improvement.</p> <p>In addition, the ACT's Basin Priority Project, ACT Healthy Waterways, is focused upon improving water quality in its catchments (covering a range of urban catchments and streams flowing through the ACT) which in turn is expected to benefit the water quality of the Murrumbidgee River and broader Murray-Darling Basin</p>
<p>C2 Regard had to the targets in s9.14 when making decisions about the use of environmental water</p> <p><i>Applicable to Schedule 12, Matter 14, Indicator 14.2 and BPIA 21.1</i></p>	<p>Summary of how the Authority, CEWH and the Basin States 'had regard' when making decisions about the use of environmental water. Statement that procedures and tools were in place, and how these were used in the reporting year. Reporters to provide a case study where possible.</p>	<p>Not only is there a comprehensive and integrated water quality planning and management framework in place for waters of the ACT and the Upper Murrumbidgee Basin, there are strong legislated requirements on Commonwealth and Territory Agencies to comply with meeting prescribed water quality criteria associated with designated uses and values of ACT, National Capital Authority (Lake Burley Griffin) and Upper Murrumbidgee Basin water uses and values.</p> <p>Therefore, in the framework of the ACT, all stakeholders, including the MDBA, should have confidence that the requirements under the Basin Plan are being met.</p>
<p><i>Application of salinity targets for the purposes of long-term salinity planning and management (Refers compliance status with section s9.19 of the Basin Plan).</i></p>		
<p>C3 Apply salinity targets in the Murray– Darling Basin Agreement for salinity planning and management.</p> <p><i>Applicable to Schedule 12, Matter 14 and BPIA 23.1</i></p>	<p>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).</p>	<p>The ACT is subject to the new Basin Salinity Management 2030 Strategy and will be reporting on performance as required and given the ACT's situation in the Basin. Historically, salinity is not an issue in the ACT as the ACT stays within the Basin Salinity Management targets that have been set and salinity reports are provided annually.</p>
<p><i>Water quality and salinity trigger points</i></p>		

<p>C4 Determine whether the trigger is reached.</p> <p><i>Applicable to BPIA 26.1</i></p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>N/A to the ACT</p>
--	---	-----------------------

D. Water Trading

Reporting Matter	Supporting evidence to be provided by Basin States	Response (milestone achievement/compliance status)
<i>The implementation of water trading rules.</i>		
<p>D1 Compliance with the Basin Plan water trading rules</p> <p><i>Applicable to Schedule 12, Matter 16, Indicator 16.1 and BPIA 29.1-31.1</i></p>	<p>Website links to the publication of information regarding an Approval Authority's interest in a trade (s12.38(2)).</p> <p>Documentation to support compliance with s12.37 to s12.39 (notice of disclosure and reasons for restricting trade).</p> <p>Documentation that supports a compliance with s12.50 (water announcements to be made generally available).</p>	<p>The ACT is compliant with the Basin Plan water trading rules as commenced 2014. However, the ACT has been characterised as non-compliant with respect to interstate water trading as there are as yet no arrangements in place for interstate trading with New South Wales.</p> <p>The ACT is highly supportive of establishing interstate trade and has exercised its best endeavours to ensure that its water trading rules, policies and processes meet the obligations under the Implementation Agreement and the Basin Plan.</p> <p>The current lack of any interstate water trading arrangements in place is despite repeated and high level requests from the ACT to NSW to establish interstate trade, with NSW citing competing priorities and insufficient resources to address and progress this matter (refer to discussions with the water trading group of the MDBA and minutes from related working group).</p> <p>As outlined above the MDBA has recommended consideration be given to seeking a formal extension on the ACT Interim WRP to 30 June 2019. This approach would provide additional time to enable the alignment of the ACT WRP with the NSW Murrumbidgee WRP including the establishment of interstate trade and other issues in parallel. The ACT is currently assessing the merit of seeking an extension to its Interim WRP.</p>
<p>D2 Trade processing times</p> <p><i>Applicable to Schedule 12, Matter 16, Indicator 16.2; NPA 6d and BPIA 29.1-31.1</i></p>	<p>Report on interstate and intrastate trade processing times (as per the COAG service and reporting standards for trade processing times).</p> <p>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>There is very little water trading occurring within the ACT and any intrastate water trading was conducted in keeping with set processing times and reporting standards.</p> <p>The ACT supports the Basin Plan trading rules and has implemented procedures to facilitate their application in the ACT. The ACT has adopted the trading rules for internal water trade. The ACT has processed water trade applications in accordance with the national processing time requirements. Indeed, the ACT has adopted the national processing times as the ACT's own performance reporting for its annual report. Note that there are very few water trades in the ACT. Reports for 2015-16 are not yet available; however, the 4 trades in 2014-15 reflect the low trade numbers and volumes.</p> <p>There were no trades where the Commonwealth was a participant for water resources within the ACT.</p>

Restrictions on trade and their application (Refers compliance status with sections s12.02-12.27 of the Basin Plan).		
<p>D3 Ensure trades are consistent with the water trading rules</p> <p><i>Applicable to Schedule 12, Matter 16; NPA 6a, 6b and 6e and BPIA 29.1</i></p>	<p>Basin States will review and exercise their best endeavours to ensure that any necessary amendments are made to their water trading rules to ensure they are consistent with the Plan water trading rules by 1 July 2014 or in accordance with the expiry of transitional or interim water resource plans.</p> <p>In addition, surface water trade within a regulated system, between regulated systems or within an unregulated system must be free of any restriction on changing the location at which water can be taken, and not be subject to any volumetric limit, except for defined allowable restrictions.</p> <p>The Basin States are required to notify the MDBA of all restrictions on the trade of surface water and the reasons for the decision within 30 days of commencement of the rules or no later than the date of effect of the restriction.</p> <p>The Basin States are also required to report any surface water entitlements which are not consistent with clauses 28 to 32 of the NWI.</p>	<p>The ACT is managing water under the interim water resource plan and is currently in discussions with the MDBA and Commonwealth regarding the merit of extending the interim ACT plan.</p> <p>There are no restrictions on internal trading in the ACT.</p> <p>There is an environmental restriction with respect to trading water from certain water management areas to another because of the environmental aspects – lack of physical connection.</p>
Approval processes for trade of water access rights		
<p>D4 Disclose interests, give reasons if restricting trade, provide notice, and publish on website.</p> <p><i>Applicable to Schedule 12, Matter 16, Indicator 16.1 and BPIA 30.1</i></p>	<p>An approval authority must disclose to each party to a proposed trade any legal or commercial interest it, or a related party, has in the water access right to be traded and any commercial interest it has in the activities of any water market intermediary involved in the trade before the trade occurs, as soon as practicable.</p>	<p>All ACT internal trades are published on the EPA's website.</p>

	<p>If an approval authority has approved a trade which it was a party, it must publish that fact including details of the type of water access right. If an approval authority rejects a proposed trade, it must notify the relevant parties in writing of its reasons.</p> <p>An approval authority who has restricted a trade of a water access right for any reason must give notice of the decision and the reasons for the decision as soon as is practicable but in any case within 30 days after the decision to restrict the trade.</p>	
<p>Information and reporting requirements</p>		
<p>D5 Provide information on water access rights and water trade rules. <i>Applicable to Schedule 12, Matter 16 and BPIA 31.1</i></p>	<p>A Basin State will provide the MDBA with certain information about water access rights conferred under Basin State law. If the information is changed, the Basin State will give the changed information to the MDBA as soon as is practicable, but in any case, no later than the date of effect of the change.</p> <p>A Basin State will provide a copy of the rules regulating the trade of tradeable water rights to the MDBA. If the rules include material by way of a reference to another document the Basin State must explain how the referenced document relates to the rules and the referenced document must be published online.</p>	<p>Provisions and amendments to legislation relating to water trade are published on the ACT legislation register.</p>
<p>D6 Report trade prices <i>Applicable to Schedule 12, Matter 16 and BPIA 31.2</i></p>	<p>If a trade requires approval by an approval authority, or requires registration, the seller must notify the approval authority, or the registration authority, of the price in writing. Note the definition of 'seller' of water access rights can include the Basin States, the MDBA or the CEWH.</p>	<p>There are no interstate water trading mechanisms established between the ACT and NSW and no trades or seller prices to report.</p>

<p>D7 Make water announcements generally available</p> <p><i>Applicable to Schedule 12, Matter 16 and BPIA 31.3</i></p>	<p>Water announcements must be published in a way that makes them likely to be brought to the attention of interested members of the public.</p> <p>Basin States will implement a process to ensure that a person, who is aware of a water announcement before it is generally made available, must not trade a water access right that is subject to the water announcement, or whose price or value would be materially affected by the announcement until that announcement is made.</p>	<p>The ACT maintains an open and transparent water trading regime for all potential market participants.</p>
--	---	--

E. Northern Basin Review

Reporting Matter	Supporting evidence to be provided by Basin States	Response (milestone achievement/compliance status)
Reviews of the Plan		
<p>E1 Provide advice and assessments of the MDBA's studies for, and review of, the work underpinning the SDLs in the Northern Basin.</p> <p><i>Applicable to BPIA 13.1</i></p>	<p>The MDBA will undertake the review of the work underpinning SDLs for the Northern Basin, in collaboration with New South Wales and Queensland, who will participate in the review and advise on associated studies, processes and final recommendations. States would need to provide evidence of their involvement in the review, including their participation in relevant advisory groups.</p>	<p>N/A to the ACT</p>

F. SDL Adjustment & Constraints Management

Reporting Matter	Supporting evidence to be provided by Basin States	Response (milestone achievement/compliance status)
Constraints Management Strategy		
F1 Review and provide advice on measures recommended in the Constraints Management Strategy. <i>Applicable to NPA 7 and BPIA 14.1</i>	The Basin States will review the recommendations of the Constraints Management Strategy having regard to benefits and costs, available funding, third party impacts and community views. Basin States will advise the MDBA of their proposed responses to the relevant Constraints Management Strategy recommendations.	The ACT is not directly involved in the Constraints Management Strategy. There are no projects proposed for the ACT nor does the Strategy have any application to the ACT.
F2: Develop constraint management proposals. <i>Applicable to NPA 7 and BPIA 14.2</i>	Basin States may develop proposals to address constraints, having regard to the Constraints Management Strategy	N/A to the ACT
Preparation of proposed measures for SDL adjustment		
F3 Prepare and assess proposals for supply measures. <i>Applicable to NPA 9 and BPIA 15.1</i>	Proponents will prepare proposals in accordance with assessment guideline and informed by the method for calculation of supply contribution. SDLAAC and BOC will assess the proposals.	N/A - The ACT is not involved in the preparation of any SDL supply measures due to the location and nature of the ACT.
F4 Prepare and assess proposals for efficiency measures <i>Applicable to BPIA 15.2</i>	Basin States may develop and implement proposals for efficiency measures for inclusion in the BOC package of measures prior to 30 June 2016. Basin States may also develop and implement proposals for additional efficiency measures after 30 June 2016.	N/A
Reallocation of reduction requests		
F5 Request MDBA to propose re-allocation of shared reduction amount.	Basin States can request the MDBA to propose a re-allocation of the shared reduction amount within affected SDL resource units in that Basin	The ACT did not seek a re-allocation of the shared reduction amount.

Applicable to BPIA 16.1

State.

G. Critical Human Water Needs

Reporting Matter	Supporting evidence to be provided by Basin States	Response (milestone achievement/compliance status)
<i>Risk management approach for inter-annual planning for critical human water needs arrangements</i>		
<p>G1 Consider the water available for critical human water needs before allocating water to other uses.</p> <p><i>Applicable to BPIA 27.1</i></p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>N/A to the ACT</p>
<p>G2 Make decisions on allocations.</p> <p><i>Applicable to BPIA 27.2</i></p>	<p>During periods of Tier 3 water sharing arrangements, the MDBA will 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>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>N/A to the ACT</p>
<i>Commencement and cessation of Tier 3 water sharing arrangements</i>		
<p>G3 Determine whether the trigger is reached and Tier 3 applies.</p> <p><i>Applicable to BPIA 28.1</i></p>	<p>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</p>	<p>N/A to the ACT</p>

	<p>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>	
--	---	--

H. Water Resource Plans

Reporting Matter	Supporting evidence to be provided by Basin States	Response (milestone achievement/compliance status)
Reporting requirements		
<p>H1 Develop water quality management plans as part of their water resource plans that identify measures to achieve objectives.</p> <p><i>Applicable to BPIA 22.1</i></p>	<p>Please provide a statement of progress where water quality management plans have not yet been developed.</p> <p>The Handbook for Practitioners for Chapter 10, Water Resource Plan Requirements provides guidance regarding the development and accreditation of water resource plans.</p>	<p>The ACT has provided a draft water quality and salinity management plan under the draft ACT Water Resource Plan (June 2016). This will be revised in a new draft of the water resource plan.</p> <p>The Authority has suggested to the ACT that consideration should be given to seeking a formal extension on the ACT Interim WRP to 30 June 2019. The ACT is currently considering the merits of such an approach.</p>
Develop of water resource plans for accreditation		
<p>H2 Develop water resource plans for accreditation</p> <p><i>Applicable to BPIA 24.1</i></p>	<p>Please provide a statement of progress where water resource plans have not yet been developed.</p>	<p>The ACT has provided the MDBA with a number of working drafts of the ACT Water Resource Plan over the last two years culminating in the provision of a major draft set of documents which included an extensive index framework and a comprehensive explanatory document provided in June 2016. The intention was to formally submit the draft ACT water resource plan in September/October 2016. However, considering feedback on the plan from the Murray-Darling Basin Authority, particularly with respect to those aspects that relate to New South Wales (e.g. establishment of interstate water trade), or require coordination with NSW with respect to the Murrumbidgee River system, the ACT is considering MDBA's recommendation to postpone the submission of the ACT water resource plan until early 2019</p>
Development of an integrated hydrologic model across the Basin		
<p>H3 Adopt eWater source</p> <p><i>Applicable to BPIA 25.1</i></p>	<p>Please provide a statement of progress where eWater source has not yet been adopted.</p> <p>The MDBA standard for water resource plan accreditation is eWater Source for water resource planning and operations, having regard to the modelling practices of Basin States and the nature</p>	<p>The ACT has begun the process of developing an eWater Source Model for the ACT. Initial discussions have been held with eWater.</p>

	of water resource plan areas and operational readiness of the model as it relates to a water resource plan area.	
--	--	--

Statement of reasons why watering not undertaken complying Basin Environmental Watering Priorities (BAEWP) for 2015–16 (Refer Matter 10 – Indicator 10.3 and BP IA Task 20.2)

Section 8.44 of the Basin Plan (2012) requires that: If a person undertakes environmental watering other than in accordance with the Basin annual environmental watering priorities accessible at <http://www.mdba.gov.au/sites/default/files/pubs/2015-16-Basin-annual-environmental-watering-priorities.pdf> that person must give to the Authority a statement of reasons why environmental watering has not been undertaken in accordance with the Basin annual environmental watering priorities (8.44(1)). The person must give the statement to the Authority as soon as practicable, but in any event within four months after the end of the water accounting period in which the environmental watering was undertaken (8.44(2)). The Authority may publish on its website the statement of reasons given.

	Basin annual environmental watering (BAEWP) priorities for 2015–16	Jurisdictions to consider reporting	Please tick (x), where BAEWP not complied with	Statement of reasons why BAEP not followed
River flows and connectivity				
1	Basin-wide flow variability and longitudinal connectivity: <i>Provide flow variability and longitudinal connectivity within rivers to support refuge habitats.</i>	NSW, Vic, ACT, SA, Qld, CEWH, TLM		
2	River Murray weir pool variation: <i>Ensure a variable flow pattern and lateral connectivity through coordinated weir pool management in the River Murray from Euston to Blanchetown.</i>	NSW, Vic, SA, CEWH, TLM		
3	Coorong, Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth: <i>Improve water quality, fringing vegetation and native fish movement by varying the water levels in Lakes Alexandrina and Albert to maintain flows into the Coorong and Murray Mouth.</i>	SA, CEWH, TLM,		
Native vegetation				
4	Basin-wide in-stream and riparian vegetation: <i>Maintain and where possible improve the condition of in-stream riparian</i>	NSW, Vic, ACT, SA, Qld, CEWH, TLM		

	Basin annual environmental watering (BAEWP) priorities for 2015–16	Jurisdictions to consider reporting	Please tick (x), where BAEWP not complied with	Statement of reasons why BAEP not followed
	vegetation, through in-channel freshes.			
5	Mid-Murrumbidgee Wetlands: Improve the condition of wetland vegetation communities in the mid-Murrumbidgee wetlands.	NSW, CEWH		
6	Macquarie Marshes: Maintain semi-permanent wetland vegetation in core refuge areas in the Macquarie Marshes	NSW, CEWH		
7	Moria grass: Maintain the condition and range of Moria grass in Barmah–Millewa Forest by supplementing a natural event and extending the duration of inundation.	NSW, Vic, CEWH, TLM		
Waterbirds				
8	Basin-wide waterbird habitat and future population recovery: Improve the complexity and health of priority waterbird habitat to maintain species richness and aid future population recovery.	NSW, Vic, ACT, SA, Qld, CEWH, TLM		
Native fish				
9	Basin-wide native fish habitat and movement: Maintain native fish populations by protecting and improving the condition of fish habitat and providing opportunities for movement.	NSW, Vic, ACT, SA, Qld, CEWH, TLM		
10	Northern Basin fish refuges: Protect native fish	NSW, Qld, CEWH		

	Basin annual environmental watering (BAEWP) priorities for 2015–16	Jurisdictions to consider reporting	Please tick (x), where BAEWP not complied with	Statement of reasons why BAEP not followed
	<i>populations and in-stream habitats, particular drought refuges, in the northern Basin.</i>			
11	Silver perch: <i>Contribute to the long-term recovery of silver perch by maintaining key populations, supporting recruitment and facilitating movement and dispersal.</i>	NSW, Vic, ACT, SA, Qld, CEWH, TLM		