



Basin Community Committee

Bringing a community perspective to the Murray–Darling Basin

COMMUNIQUE

13 July 2020

The Basin Community Committee welcomed three new members at its July meeting who further enhance the Committee’s role to ensure the voices of diverse communities in the Basin are heard. Mr Ed Fessey from the Culgoa in NSW, Ms Rachel Kelly from the Mid-Murray and Murrumbidgee in NSW, and Mr Sam Coulton from the Border Rivers in Queensland have recently joined the Committee.

The Committee called on communities to engage with them in their regions, saying “We’re here for everyone and we want to be engaged – and we can be a conduit to take your issues and concerns to Basin governments”.

The Committee looked forward to working with Basin state officials and Ministers, and encouraged all Basin governments to improve communications and engagement with Basin communities. This was particularly important to the Sustainable Diversion Limit Adjustment Mechanism – supply and constraints projects.

The Committee also looked forward to the release of the final report by the Independent Panel Assessing Social and Economic Conditions in the Basin (the ‘Sefton report’). It urged the Australian Government to not only respond to the report but to use the insights and information gained through this investment to inform Basin reform going forward – to better tailor reform approaches and to build the capacity of communities in readiness for change.

The Committee encouraged governments to appoint the Authority Chair and other members as a matter of priority as communities needed active and accessible leaders now.

The Committee heard updates from the Office of the Inspector General, from consultants who were commissioned to do research for the Sefton report, and from the Murray–Darling Basin Authority on trends in water use, and on working arrangements with Murray Lower Darling Rivers Indigenous Nations and Northern Basin Aboriginal Nations.

In the next 12 months, the Committee will continue to focus on providing guidance and advice to all Basin governments and water agencies including the Murray–Darling Basin Authority. The

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For more information on the Basin Community Committee

 www.mdba.gov.au/BCC  1800 630 114



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Committee reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening communication and engagement for people who live in the Basin, improving understanding and confidence in how rivers are managed in the Basin, and helping people adapt and improve their resilience to water reform.

The Committee encourages all people, stakeholders and communities with an interest in water reform to continue engaging to ensure their voices and concerns are heard. The Committee has and continues to call for more transparency and wider open channels of communication as we go forward.

BACKGROUND

Members of the Committee were appointed by the Authority after an extensive selection process involving all Basin governments. They reflect the diverse perspectives of towns and communities across the Basin, as well as the diversity of experiences around water reform.

Contact your local Basin Community Committee member via engagement@mdba.gov.au to share your views on how the Basin Plan is being implemented.

See a full list of members and map at mdba.gov.au/BCC

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