



Australian Government



Basin Plan

FACT SHEET 6: TRANSITIONAL AND INTERIM WATER RESOURCE PLANS

THIS FACT SHEET DESCRIBES TRANSITIONAL AND INTERIM WATER RESOURCE PLANS, AND THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN WATER RESOURCE PLANS AND THE BASIN PLAN.

ABOUT THE MURRAY-DARLING BASIN AUTHORITY

The Murray-Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) is the statutory agency that manages the Murray-Darling Basin's water resources in the national interest.

MDBA is responsible for preparing and overseeing a legally enforceable management plan — the Basin Plan.

The Basin Plan will:

- set and enforce environmentally sustainable limits on the quantities of water that may be taken from Basin water resources
- set Basin-wide environmental, water quality and salinity objectives
- develop efficient water trading regimes across the Basin
- set requirements for state water resource plans
- improve water security for all Basin water uses.

THE BASIN PLAN AND WATER RESOURCE PLANS

MDBA is working to a timetable that will produce a draft Basin Plan in 2010 and the Basin Plan in 2011.

At the time the Basin Plan comes into effect, a number of state transitional water resource plans (transitional WRPs) and interim water resource plans (interim WRPs) will already be in effect.

In a general sense, a water resource plan is a legally enforceable instrument that defines the allowable level of water diversion from a defined water resource, and sets out the arrangements for sharing the water

available for consumptive use among competing users over a specified timeframe. Effective water plans also establish rules to meet environmental objectives and take account of potential and emerging threats to the resource, such as climate change.

TRANSITIONAL WRPS

A transitional WRP is a plan made by a Basin state (Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia or the Australian Capital Territory) before 25 January 2007, and is either listed in Schedule 4 of the Commonwealth *Water Act 2007* (the Water Act) or recognised by a regulation under the Water Act.

The various transitional WRPs listed in Schedule 4 (please see below) cease to have effect from the date in the schedule, unless they cease earlier under the respective law of a Basin state.

There are currently no transitional WRPs listed in Schedule 4 for Victoria. Victoria is currently taking action to prescribe water sharing arrangements in Victoria, through regulation.

INTERIM WRPS

An interim WRP is one that is made under a state water management law on or after 25 January 2007 and before the Basin Plan first takes effect. Now that MDBA has been established, a Basin state must consult MDBA about a proposed interim WRP before making it. A list of current interim WRPs is provided below.

Interim WRPs cease to have effect on 31 December 2014, or five years after the plan is made, whichever is later, unless they cease to have effect earlier under the relevant law of a Basin state.

While a transitional or interim WRP is in effect, it prevails over the Basin Plan until they expire. For example, this means that the new sustainable diversion limits (SDLs) will not take effect until these plans expire.

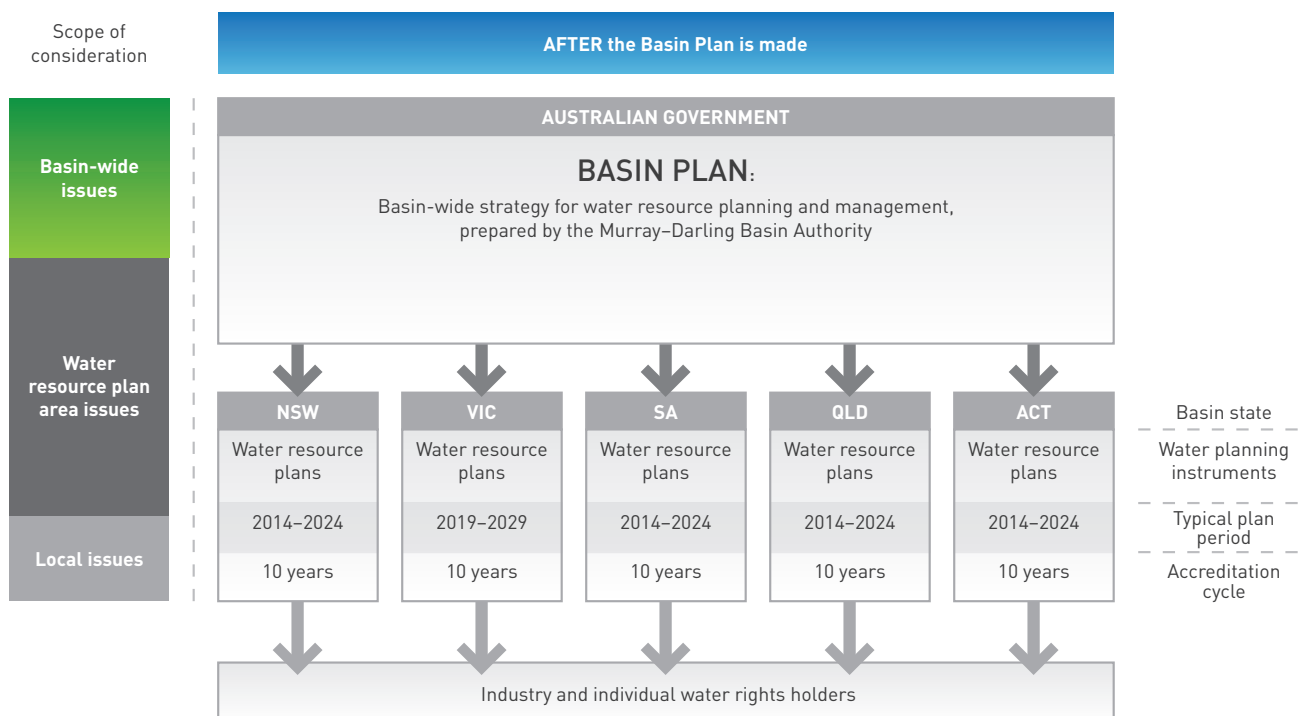
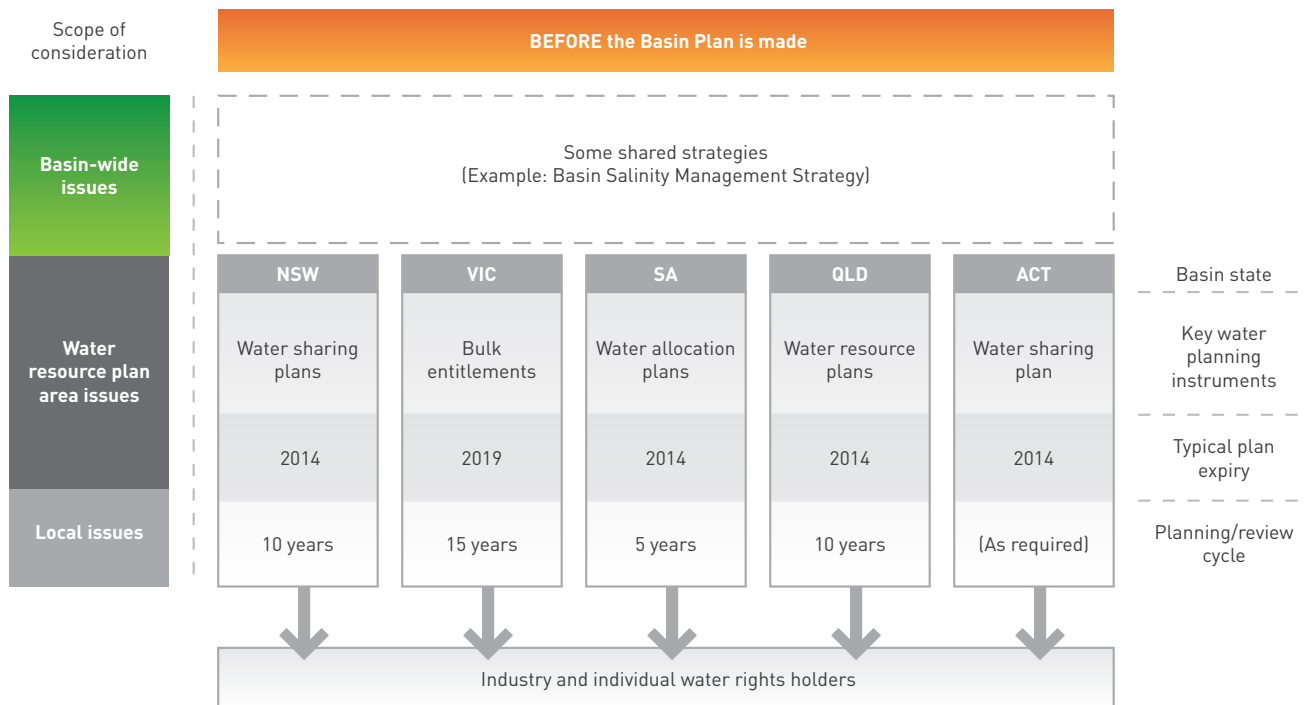
implementing water resource plans that are consistent with the Basin Plan.

As current state WRPs expire, new ones will be developed by the Basin states, which will need to be accredited by the Commonwealth Minister under the Water Act.

The Basin Plan will set out the requirements with which state WRPs will need to comply in order to be accredited. MDBA will advise the Commonwealth

RELATIONSHIP OF STATE-BASED WATER RESOURCE PLANS TO THE BASIN PLAN

The Basin states will play a major role in putting the Basin Plan into operation by developing and



Note:

1. Groundwater WRPs in South Australia expire in December 2012 or January 2013.
2. Groundwater WRPs in New South Wales generally expire in June 2017

Minister on whether individual WRPs comply with the requirements of the Basin Plan. This will ensure consistency between WRPs and the Basin Plan.

WATER ACT 2007 (NO. 137, 2007) – SCHEDULE 4

Transitional water resource plans

ITEM	PLAN (BASIN STATE)	Date plan ceases to have effect
1	Water Resource (Warrego, Paroo, Bulloo and Nebine) Plan 2003 (Queensland)	1 September 2014
2	Water Resource (Moonie) Plan 2003 (Queensland)	1 September 2014
3	Water Resource (Border Rivers) Plan 2003 (Queensland)	1 September 2014
4	Water Resource (Condamine and Balonne) Plan 2004 (Queensland)	1 September 2014
5	Angas Bremer Prescribed Wells Area Water Allocation Plan (South Australia)	2 January 2013
6	Mallee Prescribed Wells Area Water Allocation Plan (South Australia)	21 December 2012
7	River Murray Prescribed Watercourse Water Allocation Plan (South Australia)	1 July 2014
8	Noora Prescribed Wells Area Water Allocation Plan (South Australia)	2 January 2013
9	Tenterfield Creek Water Source 2003--Water Sharing Plan (New South Wales)	1 July 2014
10	Macquarie and Cudgegong Regulated Rivers Water Source 2003--Water Sharing Plan (New South Wales)	1 July 2014
11	Castlereagh River above Binnaway Water Source 2003--Water Sharing Plan (New South Wales)	1 July 2014
12	Lower Macquarie Groundwater Sources 2003--Water Sharing Plan (New South Wales)	30 June 2017
13	Gwydir Regulated River Water Source 2002--Water Sharing Plan (New South Wales)	1 July 2014
14	Rocky Creek, Cobbadah, Upper Horton and Lower Horton Water Source 2003--Water Sharing Plan (New South Wales)	1 July 2014
15	Lower Gwydir Groundwater Source 2003--Water Sharing Plan (New South Wales)	30 June 2017
16	Lachlan Regulated River Water Source 2003--Water Sharing Plan (New South Wales)	1 July 2014
17	Mandagery Creek Water Source 2003--Water Sharing Plan (New South Wales)	1 July 2014
18	New South Wales Murray and Lower Darling Regulated Rivers Water Sources 2003--Water Sharing Plan (New South Wales)	1 July 2014
19	Upper Billabong Water Source 2003--Water Sharing Plan (New South Wales)	1 July 2014
20	Lower Murray Groundwater Source--Water Sharing Plan (New South Wales)	30 June 2017
21	Murrumbidgee Regulated River Water Source 2003--Water Sharing Plan (New South Wales)	1 June 2014
22	Adelong Creek Water Source 2003--Water Sharing Plan (New South Wales)	1 June 2014
23	Tarcutta Creek Water Source 2003--Water Sharing Plan (New South Wales)	1 July 2014
24	Lower Murrumbidgee Groundwater Sources 2003--Water Sharing Plan (New South Wales)	30 June 2017
25	Upper Namoi and Lower Namoi Regulated River Water Sources 2003--Water Sharing Plan (New South Wales)	1 July 2014
26	Phillips Creek, Mooki River, Quirindi Creek and Warrah Creek Water Sources 2003--Water Sharing Plan (New South Wales)	1 July 2014
27	Upper and Lower Namoi Groundwater Sources 2003--Water Sharing Plan (New South Wales)	30 June 2017

Note:

In the case of Victoria, it is intended to prescribe the water management arrangements as transitional WRPs through regulation and these plans will continue to have effect until 2019.

Interim plans to date

Item	Jurisdiction	Date plan commenced as an Interim Plan under the Water Act.
1	NSW - Border Rivers Regulated River Water Source Water Sharing Plan	29 May 2009
2	NSW - Lower Lachlan Groundwater Source Water Sharing Plan 2003	31 January 2008
3	NSW - Peel Valley Regulated, Unregulated, Alluvium and Fractured Rock Water Sources 2010	23 April 2010
4	ACT - Water Resources (Water management areas) (No 1)	Determination 2007 - 1 August 2007
5	ACT - Water Resources (Amounts of water reasonable for uses guidelines)	Determination 2007 (No 1) - 1 August 2007
6	ACT - Water Resources (Water available from areas)	Determination 2007 (No 1) - 1 August 2007
7	SA — Water Allocation Plan for the Marne Saunders Prescribed water Resource Area	10 January 2010

FURTHER INFORMATION

Please visit MDBA website www.mdba.gov.au for the current situation on Interim Water Resource Plans.

The Basin Plan: a concept statement and copies of this and other fact sheets are available on the Murray–Darling Basin Authority website at www.mdba.gov.au.

For copies or enquiries phone 1800 230 067 or email engagement@mdba.gov.au.

This fact sheet provides a general summary which has been prepared using best efforts to ensure that the material it presents is current and accurate. Users should note that developments in Commonwealth Government policy, input from consultation and other circumstances may result in changes to the approaches set out in the fact sheet.

The information in this fact sheet does not represent any decision of the six-member Authority.

This is #6 in a series of fact sheets on the development of the Basin Plan



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