



Australian Government



Summary:

Basin Plan Evaluation Framework

The Basin Plan aims to ensure that water is shared between all users, including the environment, in a sustainable way.

The Basin Plan Evaluation Framework is used by the MDBA to evaluate if the Basin Plan is on track. It guides the MDBA's 2020 and 2025 evaluations, ensuring they meet the requirements of the Water Act and Basin Plan.

It is important that the evaluation process is robust and can clearly measure and assess how implementation is tracking, how effective the Basin Plan is for achieving outcomes, and what needs to be improved.

Changes to the Framework

To ensure these requirements are met, the Evaluation Framework has been revised to include lessons and recommendations from the following:

- 2017 Basin Plan Evaluation
- an independent review of the 2017 Basin Plan Evaluation
- the Productivity Commission's report on National Water Reform.

The revised Evaluation Framework is a document for the MDBA and our Commonwealth and Basin State partner agencies.

Changes for Basin states

Obligations for the MDBA are more clearly defined in the revised Evaluation Framework. It clearly identifies links with Basin states and Commonwealth partners' obligations.

A collaborative and participatory approach to evaluation will be taken to increase evaluation transparency and enhance the MDBA's capacity to learn and adapt.

The final step in the Evaluation Framework is implementing adaptive management. The Authority will work with partner agencies and key stakeholders to ensure ongoing improvement.

Changes to the evaluation themes

The Evaluation Framework defines the focus and specific topics, or themes that will be evaluated in 2020 and 2025. These themes include both implementation and outcome themes.

Some of the themes have changed to ensure the findings around outcomes are more meaningful to stakeholders.

The Evaluation Framework demonstrates a need for each theme to have an Evaluation Plan. These plans align key evaluation questions (listed in the Basin Plan) with theme specific questions, relevant targets and data or information sources.

Evaluation Plans are being developed in consultation with key stakeholders and will be published in 2019.



Towards a healthy, working and sustainable Murray-Darling Basin



Water supports people and communities



Water supports a healthy and resilient environment



Water supports the economy

Outcome themes

The outcomes the Basin Plan sets out to achieve



Northern Basin - longitudinal connectivity (connection along rivers) and environmental outcomes



Floodplains and wetlands - lateral connectivity (connection between rivers and wetlands) and environmental outcomes



Social, economic and cultural



Southern Basin - longitudinal connectivity and environmental outcomes



End-of-system - hydrological connectivity and environmental outcomes



Ecosystem service valuation

Implementation themes

How to reach outcomes expected from the Basin Plan



Environmental watering



Water quality and salinity



Water trading



Water resource plans, compliance and water accounting



Reviews and adjustment

The Basin Plan is evaluated on the above themes.



The Basin Plan must be evaluated every 5 years.



In 2017 the Basin Plan was evaluated for the first time.



Evaluations will take place in 2020 and 2025.



The Evaluation Framework is used by the MDBA to evaluate the Basin Plan.



The Evaluation Framework has been revised to improve future evaluations.

The Murray-Darling Basin



For more information visit

mdba.gov.au/basin-plan-evaluation

Office locations

Adelaide, Albury-Wodonga, Canberra, Goondiwindi, Toowoomba



1800 230 067



engagement@mdba.gov.au



mdba.gov.au