

Joint Agreement

Joint Agreement between Murray Darling Basin Authority (Authority) and Department for Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) setting out agreed actions (set out in Schedule 2) to meet reporting requirements under section 71 of the *Water Act 2007* (Cth) in the absence of an accredited water resource plan for Victoria.

The Joint Agreement applies in respect of the proposed water resource plans submitted by Victoria to the Authority as specified in Schedule 1.

The agreed actions will no longer apply when:

- (a) relevant proposed WRP identified in Schedule 1 is accredited in accordance with the *Water Act 2007* (Cth); or
- (b) the requirements in Schedule 2 are met.

SIGNED FOR AND ON BEHALF OF THE PARTIES by

Helen Vaughan, Deputy Secretary)
Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning)
for and on behalf of the)

Neilly
28/6/19.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, LAND, WATER AND PLANNING)

in the presence of:)

[Signature]
.....
Witness
[Print Name: *BELLE NEILL*]

CARL BINNING, A/g Chief Executive)
Murray–Darling Basin Authority)
for and on behalf of the)

[Signature]

MURRAY–DARLING BASIN AUTHORITY)

in the presence of:)

[Signature]
.....
Witness
[Print Name:] *NICHOLAS QUIGLEY*

SCHEDULE 1

In this Joint Agreement, unless otherwise indicated, a term used in the Commonwealth *Water Act 2007* (Cth) or the Basin Plan has the meaning given by that Act or Basin Plan, respectively.

WRP AREAS

Item no.	Water resource plan area	Relevant proposed WRP	Date proposed WRP submitted to the MDBA
1	Goulburn-Murray (groundwater)	Victoria's North and Murray Water Resource Plan	26 April 2019
2	Victorian Murray (surface water)	Victoria's North and Murray Water Resource Plan	26 April 2019
3	Northern Victoria (surface water)	Victoria's North and Murray Water Resource Plan	26 April 2019
4	Wimmera-Mallee (surface water)	Wimmera-Mallee Water Resource Plan	22 February 2019
5	Wimmera-Mallee (groundwater)	Wimmera-Mallee Water Resource Plan	22 February 2019

SCHEDULE 2

SPECIFIED ACTIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION COMMITMENT

Definitions for this Schedule

In this Schedule, unless otherwise indicated, a term used in the *Water Act 2007* (Cth) or the Basin Plan has the meaning given by that Act or Basin Plan, respectively.

Proposed WRP means the water resource plan submitted by Victoria to the Murray Darling Basin Authority for assessment as specified in Schedule 1;

Relevant proposed WRP means the proposed water resource plan for the water resource plan area as specified in Schedule 1;

Table of Actions for each Party

	DELWP ACTION	AUTHORITY ACTION	TIMEFRAME WITHIN WHICH ACTION WILL BE COMPLETED
1	<p>For the 2019-2020 water accounting period, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning will report to the Authority consistent with s 71 of the <i>Water Act 2007</i> (Cth), Basin Plan Chapter 6 Part 4, and the associated Authority's SDL Reporting and Compliance Framework.</p> <p>The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning will report:</p> <p>a) the quantity of water permitted to be taken from each SDL resource unit of the WRP area for consumptive use, determined by the method specified in the relevant proposed WRP or the method specified in material provided under action 2, in relation to the requirements of sections 10.10 and 10.12; and</p>	<p>The Authority will use the report provided under this action as an equivalent to the report required by s 71(1)(g) and (h) of the <i>Water Act 2007</i> (Cth), to track Victoria's performance in meeting Basin Plan expectations, including compliance with SDLs.</p>	<p>Department of Environment, Land Water and Planning will complete its action within 4 months after the end of the 2019-2020 water accounting period.</p>

DELWP ACTION	AUTHORITY ACTION	TIMEFRAME WITHIN WHICH ACTION WILL BE COMPLETED
<p>b) the quantity of water actually taken from each SDL resource unit, determined by applying the method specified in the relevant proposed WRP or the method specified in material provided under action 2, in relation to the requirements of section 10.15; and</p> <p>c) an assessment of compliance with the SDL of each SDL resource unit (determined by reference to inputs submitted under paragraphs (a) and (b)); and</p> <p>d) if there has been non-compliance with the SDL of an SDL resource unit - the actions that Department of Environment, Land Water and Planning proposes to take to ensure that the limit is complied with in the future.</p>	<p>Specifically, for the purpose of the Basin Plan Chapter 6 Part 4, and as if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the quantity reported in paragraph (a) in column 2 of this Table was annual permitted take for s 6.10(1) (for surface water) or s 6.12B(1) (for groundwater) of the Basin Plan; and - the quantity reported in paragraph (b) in column 2 of this Table was annual actual take for s 6.10(2) (for surface water) or s 6.12B(2) (for groundwater) of the Basin Plan. - the application of the method in the relevant proposed WRP as referred to in this Schedule is taken to be the operation of the relevant WRP as though it was accredited under the <i>Water Act 2007</i> (Cth), for s 6.12(4)(a) (for surface water), or s 6.12C(4)(a) (for groundwater) of the Basin Plan. 	
<p>2</p> <p>If a proposed WRP for a WRP area has been submitted but has, before 30 June 2019, been withdrawn the Department of Environment, Land Water and Planning must submit to the Authority material which addresses all matters set out in sections 10.10, 10.11, 10.12, 10.13 and 10.15 of the Basin Plan for that WRP area.</p> <p>Where this action applies, Action 1 will apply as though reference to a "relevant proposed WRP" is the method provided under this Action.</p>		<p>Department of Environment, Land Water and Planning must provide the material on or before 30 June 2019.</p>