

Basin Plan Water Resource Plan Requirements

Position Statement 6B: Consistency with planning for environmental watering

POLICY ISSUE	Planning for environmental watering consistently with the Environmental Watering Plan, Basin-wide environmental watering strategy and with regard to long-term watering plans.
REFERENCES	<i>Basin Plan 2012 (Cwth) (Basin Plan) s10.26</i>

MDBA POSITION STATEMENT

In determining whether a water resource plan (WRP) is consistent with s10.26 the MDBA will consider:

- How the operation of the WRP provides for environmental watering to occur consistently with the Environmental Watering Plan (Chapter 8 of the Basin Plan)
- How the operation of the WRP will:
 - a) contribute to the achievement of the objectives in the Environmental Watering Plan (Part 2 of Chapter 8 of the Basin Plan)
 - b) support the achievement of expected environmental outcomes in the Basin-wide environmental watering strategy relevant to the WRP area, and
 - c) provide for water management strategies that protect and restore important Basin-scale assets relevant to the WRP area as set out in the Basin-wide environmental watering strategy.
- How the operation of a WRP will contribute to meeting environmental watering requirements of priority environmental assets and priority ecosystem functions identified in long-term watering plans.
- How the operation of the WRP will contribute to environmental watering being undertaken consistently with the Principles to be applied in environmental watering (Division 6, Chapter 8 of the Basin Plan), including:
 - a) How management of water for consumptive use will, where possible, be undertaken in a way that is consistent with achieving the overall environmental objectives for water-dependent ecosystems.
 - b) How environmental watering is undertaken having regard to the views of local communities
- If the operation of the WRP limits environmental watering from occurring consistent with the Environmental Watering Plan and the Basin-wide environmental watering strategy.

Basin States will need to provide documentation that demonstrates that planning for environmental watering has occurred consistently with s10.26, including how their environmental water planning aligns with the Basin-wide environmental watering strategy and Environmental Watering Plan.

MDBA Reference	D15/64744	<i>Accessed:</i>
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In meeting the criteria above regard should also be had to Position Statements 4A Consistency with s10.17 on priority environmental assets and priority ecosystem functions, 6A Change in PEW protection, 6C Enabling environmental watering between connected water resources and 1H Changing Reliability.

Rationale

Section 10.26 of the Basin Plan exists to ensure that a WRP is responsive to the environmental management framework (in Chapter 8 of the Basin Plan) and that it plays an active and constructive role in achieving environmental objectives and outcomes. At a minimum a WRP must not limit environmental watering occurring in a way that is consistent with the Environmental Watering Plan and the Basin-wide environmental watering strategy.

MDBA Reference	D15/64744
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