



Department
of Industry

OUT17/35186

Mr Tim Fisher
Assistant Secretary, Water Policy Branch
Department of Agriculture and Water Resources
GPO Box 858
Canberra City
ACT 2601

Dear Mr Fisher

New South Wales 2016/17 Statement of Assurance under the National Partnership Agreement

I am pleased to provide the New South Wales Basin Plan Annual Report for 2016/17.

This report sets out the achievement of milestones in 2016/17 as required under Schedule A of the National Partnership Agreement on Implementing Water Reform in the Murray-Darling Basin.

In addition, the report presents the New South Wales self-assessment of performance against its obligations of the Basin Plan 2012, as per the Basin Plan Implementation Agreement.

Should you need to discuss any aspects of this report please contact Nick Cook, Director Water Programs & Performance, Crown Lands & Water, on 02 4904 2522.

Yours sincerely

Tim Holden
A/Deputy Secretary, Crown Lands and Water

cc: Mr Phillip Glyde, Chief Executive
Murray Darling Basin Authority,
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The NSW 2016-17 annual report to satisfy annual reporting obligations for:

- Basin Plan Schedule 12 responses (except Matter 9 – use of environmental water)
- National Partnerships Agreement assurance of milestone achievement
- Basin Plan Implementation Agreement self-assessment of compliance with implementation tasks

Reporting context

This template provides a single Commonwealth information collection point, that covers Basin State 2016-17 annual reporting obligations in relation to the Murray-Darling Basin Plan for:

- Basin Plan Schedule 12
- the Basin Plan Implementation Agreement compliance requirements
- the milestone assessments of the National Partnership Agreement (NPA) on Implementing Water Reform in the Murray-Darling Basin

Reporting for Schedule 12 Matter 9 (the identification and use of environmental water) is reported separately.

The Department of Agriculture and Water Resources will use the information provided in this template as well as multiple other sources to meet NPA reporting requirements. Reporting against NPA milestone 6c is not required as information will be gathered from within the Department. Where milestones have not been met, or not fully met, Basin states should indicate whether they intend to meet the milestone in the future and if not, provide the rationale. Where applicable, describe any intended actions and planned timeframe for the milestone to be met. The Department will seek collaborating information from the MDBA and Commonwealth Environmental Water Office where necessary.

A. Local Knowledge and Stakeholder Engagement

Reporting Matter	Supporting evidence to be provided by Basin States	Response (response/milestone achievement/compliance status)
The extent to which local knowledge and solutions inform the implementation of the Basin Plan		
<p>A1 The outcome of engagement on the implementation of the Basin Plan</p> <p><i>Applicable to Schedule 12, Matter 6, Indicator 6.1 and NPA 8e</i></p>	<p>Provide a descriptive statement. Where possible include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How local knowledge and solutions were used • How involving communities made a difference to Basin Plan implementation • How decisions changed as a result of community involvement • How environmental watering in regulated catchments has occurred having regard to the views of local communities and persons materially affected by the management of environmental water • Local knowledge might include knowledge drawn from Traditional Owners and other Aboriginal people and groups • When reporting on Aboriginal participation and influence, remember processes of involvement may be as important as outcomes. <p>In 2016/17 reporting, we would expect use of local knowledge to feature in development of Water Resource Plans and the management of environmental water.</p> <p>Examples or case studies are not mandatory, but may be a useful way to describe how local knowledge and solutions inform implementation of the Basin Plan.</p>	<p>In 2016-17 NSW continued engagement for the Water Resource Plans (WRP). This has included the continuation of Stakeholder Advisory Panels (SAP) as a forum to discuss management options. These panels include representatives from water users, indigenous groups, local government and environmental interests. Panel members have provided local knowledge and advice on potential issues in developing the Plans. Specific programs and processes are in place to ensure the views of Aboriginal peoples and cultural values are captured in the planning process.</p> <p>Over 100 meetings were held in a variety of locations utilising various delivery methods based on stakeholder requirements, such as public meetings, targeted consultation with specific user groups and one-on-one meetings with individual stakeholders. In addition, 38 mail outs were also completed. Engagement has improved operational efficiencies, improved ease of implementation of the rules, improved consistency across plans and application of updated policy.</p> <p>In 2016 NSW announced the release of the NSW Water Resource Plan Roadmap Factsheet found here http://www.water.nsw.gov.au/water-management/water-resource-plans outlining the process, timelines and key principles for the creation of the Water Resource Plans.</p> <p>A monthly newsletter, as well as a weekly dashboard, are provided to stakeholders to keep them informed of the process and key milestones. A dedicated Water Resource Plan web portal was also established to provide stakeholders with access to the latest information.</p> <p>NSW works closely with the community to deliver environmental water to priority sites across the state. Environmental Water Advisory Groups (EWAGs) draw on the expertise and experience of community members with the primary aim of guiding the use of environmental water in NSW. During 2016/17 EWAG's in each valley used local knowledge and expert advice to ensure environmental water is managed effectively and efficiently. This knowledge and advice was incorporated into the 2016/17 annual watering plans. These plans identify priority watering assets and targets, the recent history of natural and environmental water flows, preceding conditions and a forecast of available water.</p> <p>Long-term Water Planning objectives and the Basin Watering Priorities are a key focus of annual plans. Objectives are being developed through the Long-term Watering Plan (LTWP) process which relies on the collection of existing information, including watering requirements for ecological and cultural values. Targeted engagement is focussed on respective EWAGs, key community and river user stakeholders as well as other NSW agencies and the Commonwealth Environmental Water Office. This work helps NSW to identify assets, risks and Long-term Water objectives. Targeted engagement for LTWP development occurred for the Gwydir, Macquarie-Castlereagh, Lachlan, Murrumbidgee and Murray-Lower Darling WRP</p>

Reporting Matter	Supporting evidence to be provided by Basin States	Response (response/milestone achievement/compliance status)
		<p>areas.</p> <p>NSW is committed to ensuring that there are no unmitigated third party impacts through the final projects proposed through the Sustainable Diversion Limit (SDL) Adjustment Mechanism – or any Basin Plan implementation activity. Following the release of the Murray-Darling Basin Authority’s (MDBA) final determination of offsets, NSW will undertake its own consultation process with stakeholders.</p> <p>This community consultation is expected to occur from the beginning of 2018, and will inform continued project development and detailed design. Importantly, the NSW Government will use the forward consultation and engagement to develop any new operating rules at this time, and will not be negotiating new operating rules for storages and rivers until such time as clear and detailed project plans are in place; there has been extensive community consultation; projects are fully funded by the Commonwealth; and there are no unmitigated third party impacts.</p> <p>At the Ministerial Council meeting in June, a package of Sustainable Diversion Limit Adjustment Mechanism (SDLAM) project proposals were endorsed by the Council for notification to the MDBA. In this context, endorsement signifies that the council is satisfied that the proposed projects are feasible and are likely to result in significant water offsets, while notification to the MDBA means that the projects can progress to detailed modelling. The projects were formally notified to the MDBA on 30 June 2017 and the full list of projects can be found here - https://www.mdba.gov.au/basin-plan-roll-out/sustainable-diversion-limits/sdl-adjustment-proposals-state-projects.</p> <p>NSW is continuing to implement the Private Property Wetlands Watering Project, which provides environmental water to wetlands that have been disconnected from natural flood paths. In consultation with landholders, water is delivered to wetland sites using a number of methods including pumping and diversion from irrigation supply channels. Collaboration with landholders is key to the success of this program. The NSW Office of Environment and Heritage continues to work with landholders to determine priority sites, schedule flows, optimise infrastructure, manage the delivery of water and monitor the ecological response during and after flows.</p> <p>NSW continues Aboriginal engagement via established protocols with NBAN and MLDRIN, as well as Local Aboriginal Land Councils and other interested Aboriginal parties across the Basin to inform Water Resource Plan development; and continues with the engagement of Aboriginal peoples across NSW in informing broader water resource management. This includes NBAN and MLDRIN representation at future SAP meetings for each planning area.</p> <p>Aboriginal involvement during 2016/17 included a partnership project with the Armidale Clontarf Academy. The partnership project with the local Kamilaroi Aboriginal people was an opportunity to share insights on the Gwydir River, its floodplain and wetlands. Within the Lachlan catchment, environmental water managers</p>

Reporting Matter	Supporting evidence to be provided by Basin States	Response (response/milestone achievement/compliance status)
		<p>have been working closely with Aboriginal communities located at Condobolin and Murrin Bridge with regular visits to wetlands and exchanging information.</p> <p>NSW remains committed to fulfilling all requirements under the Murray-Darling Basin Plan including those identified in Chapter 10, Part 14 of that Plan, specifically taking into account the Aboriginal peoples water dependent cultural values and uses.</p>
<p>A2 Processes used to identify stakeholders and other relevant groups and individuals from local communities and peak bodies.</p> <p><i>Applicable to Schedule 12, Matter 6, Indicator 6.2 and NPA 8e</i></p>	<p>Provide a descriptive statement. Where possible include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Processes used to identify stakeholders and other relevant groups and individuals 	<p>Stakeholders were identified through a mapping process, through the Water Resource Plan that identified stakeholders who were impacted directly or indirectly, using community and agency networks within WRP areas and by liaising with peak bodies such as National Irrigators Council, NSW Irrigators Council and NSW Farmers Federation.</p> <p>NSW has knowledge of key stakeholder groups from previous planning activities and draws on this knowledge to identify groups for targeted consultation and mail-outs.</p> <p>In regard to Aboriginal consultation, during the majority of 2016/2017 a dedicated Aboriginal Water Initiative team who drew on their own and community knowledge to build up a list of relevant contacts within each plan area and fed this information into the relevant Stakeholder Advisory Panel (SAP). Input from traditional owners, NBAN/MLDRIN was also sought.</p> <p>In April 2017 discussions commenced with MLDRIN and NBAN on DPI Water’s departmental structure and the appointment of Aboriginal representation on SAP’s as recommended by MLDRIN and NBAN and the development of a new consultation process.</p> <p>For Long-term Watering Planning development, stakeholder analysis identified 5 key stakeholder clusters— Environmental Water Advisory Groups (EWAGs) and Water Resource Plan (WRP) Stakeholder Advisory Panels, an Interagency Consultation Group, Agency stakeholders, Key Regional Stakeholder Groups as well as Broader Community & Interest Groups. For each valley, this process identified the engagement objective, expectation for consultation, key stakeholder group and the medium/technique for consultation.</p> <p>NSW has developed an Environmental Water Communications and Engagement Strategy to meet the increased community requests for more information about environmental water and its management. Successful communication and engagement is also expected to result in more understanding and ownership of environmental water management within the community. The overall aims of this plan are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> increase the awareness, understanding and participation of the community, stakeholders and partners, in environmental water. inform and inspire the community and stakeholders about environmental water objectives, outcomes

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		<p>and activities in each catchment in a manner designed for a range of audiences.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • respond to community interest to discuss and participate in environmental water planning and management and to confirm acceptance of environmental water delivery and management for local communities. • facilitate and nurture EWAGs as a central group to advise on environmental water planning and management. • be open, transparent and clearly communicate government policy and decision making in relation to environmental water and then to evaluate all communications.
<p>A3 How stakeholders and other relevant groups and individuals were engaged.</p> <p><i>Applicable to Schedule 12, Matter 6, Indicator 6.3 and NPA 8e</i></p>	<p>Provide a descriptive statement. Where possible include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The range of audiences engaged • The range of opportunities (types of engagement) <p>Relate these to the Basin Plan obligations to have regard to local views (for e.g., in relation to Chapter 8 (environmental watering); and 10 (water resource planning)).</p>	<p>The key opportunities and approaches for NSW to meet engagement objectives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivery methods were based on stakeholder requirements, public meetings, targeted consultation with specific user groups, and one-on-one meetings with individual stakeholders. In addition, 38 mail outs were also completed. • implementing the use of relevant communication media and being more responsive to notification of events. • upgrading websites (e.g. water for the environment landing page) and use of relevant multi-media tools to allow more user friendly information to be available for the full range of audiences. • broaden community engagement to the community of interest within each catchment to allow all users to be part of the conversation. • partner with other government agencies in engagement and communications to deliver whole of government communication and engagement. • implement catchment based multi-media communication products suitable for those communities. • adopt a coordinated and decentralised approach to communications and engagement with the catchments driving the communication content for each catchment consistent with corporate messages. • targeted community information forums on environmental water planning, delivery and monitoring.

B. Environmental Watering

Reporting Matter	Supporting evidence to be provided by Basin States	Response (milestone achievement/compliance status)
The implementation of the environmental management framework (Part 4 of Chapter 8)		
<p>B1 Long-term watering plans were prepared, with the required content, published, reviewed and updated as obligated under Part 4 of Chapter 8, Divisions 3.</p> <p><i>Applicable to Schedule 12, Matter 10, Indicator 10.1; NPA 8f and BPIA 18.1</i></p>	<p>What progress has the Basin State made in preparing long-term watering plans for each surface water resource plan area as agreed?</p> <p><i>[Background: Each Basin State will prepare long-term watering plans aligning with the Plan’s surface water resource plan areas.</i></p> <p>The level of detail in a long-term watering plan will vary according to local conditions, levels of development and regulation, the influence on other water resources, and statutory and other arrangements prevailing in the surface water resource plan area.</p> <p>A long-term watering plan may provide that an existing or other specified instrument or text comprises or is part of a Basin State’s plan.</p> <p>The plans will be developed by dates agreed between the MDBA and each Basin State.</p> <p>The MDBA and each Basin State will separately agree on what further material would be required for each of the State’s long-term watering plans. As part of this, the MDBA and each Basin State will also agree on the standards required for this material.]</p>	<p>As a component of the Basin Plan, NSW has been developing Long-term Watering Plans (LTWPs) to guide the use of water in NSW Water Resource Plan areas. These plans will guide the longer term management of environmental water within Water Resource Plan areas to achieve catchment and Basin-wide environmental outcomes. Each LTWP identifies important assets and ecosystem functions, sets objectives and targets for environmental water and recognises long-term risks and management strategies.</p> <p>The development of LTWPs continues to progress. LTWP plan development is ongoing in the Gwydir and Macquarie–Castlereagh, Barwon–Darling, Border Rivers, Lachlan, Murrumbidgee, Murray–Lower Darling. Interagency liaison, stakeholder workshops and other stakeholder engagement are being undertaken as discussed in section A.</p>
<p>B2 Annual priorities were prepared, with the required content, published, reviewed and updated as obligated under Part 4 of Chapter 8, Divisions 4</p> <p><i>Applicable to Schedule 12, Matter 10, Indicator 10.1; NPA 8c and BPIA 19.1</i></p>	<p>Were annual environmental watering priorities (AEWP) or other relevant instruments submitted as agreed with the MDBA, for the purposes of identifying the Basin annual environmental watering priorities for the water resource plan areas?</p> <p><i>[Background: The level of detail for annual environmental watering priorities will vary according to local conditions, levels of development and regulation, influence on other water resources and statutory and other arrangements in the water resource plan area.</i></p> <p>The principle of fit for purpose management will inform the development and assessment of annual environmental watering priorities by Basin States and the MDBA respectively.]</p>	<p>NSW has identified the Annual Environmental Watering Priorities (AEWP) for surface water in each Water Resource Plan area for 2017/2018, having had regard to the Basin Plan Part 4 of Chapter 8, Division 4 and the principles in Part 6 of Chapter 8. These priority statements were provided to the Murray–Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) in a timely fashion and identified how environmental water may be used in the coming year, depending on ecological and climatic factors, including antecedent conditions, and water availability.</p> <p>These priorities were provided to the MDBA in May 2017 and are available online on the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage website at: http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/water/water-for-the-environment</p>
<p>B3 Watering strategies, plans and priorities are prepared consistently</p>	<p>Describe how coordination, consultation and cooperation occurred, including with other governments, was</p>	<p>NSW Watering strategies, plans, Annual Environmental Watering Priorities (AEWP) and Annual Priority Statements are prepared consistently in accordance with Chapter 8, Part 4. This approach ensures that</p>

<p>with Part 4 of Chapter 8, in relation to coordinating, consulting and cooperating with other Reporters and the matters to which regard must be had (Chapter 8, Part 4)</p> <p><i>Applicable to Schedule 12, Matter 10, Indicator 10.2; NPA 8c, 8d and 8f and BPIA 20.1</i></p>	<p>undertaken in preparing watering strategies, plans and priorities.</p> <p>Describe how coordination, consultation and cooperation made a difference.</p> <p>Also describe how regard was had for particular matters as obligated in Part 4 of Chapter 8.</p>	<p>stakeholder concerns are addressed and priorities are developed in a cooperative fashion. It also promotes the efficient use of environmental water for more effective outcomes. Cooperative management of all held and planned water is, therefore, a key element of the prioritisation and planning.</p>
<p>B4 How Environmental watering principles were applied consistent with Chapter 8, Part 4, Division 6.</p> <p><i>Applicable to Schedule 12, Matter 10, Indicator 10.3; NPA 8a, 8b and 8d and BPIA 20.2</i></p>	<p>Provide at least one case study that demonstrates how environmental watering principles were applied and identify the relevant principles.</p> <p>Provide reasons for any environmental watering that was not in accordance with annual watering priorities (please provide answer in the <i>statement of reasons</i> table at bottom of this document).</p> <p>Confirmation that the characteristics of licensed entitlements held for environmental use have not been enhanced or diminished relative to like entitlements held for other purposes.</p> <p>Where feasible and agreed by the relevant basin state, confirm that measures have been implemented to facilitate the use of environmental water through water shepherding and return flow provisions.</p>	<p>In early November 2016, WaterNSW advised the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage that releases from Wyangala Dam into the Lachlan River would progressively be reduced to a minimum base flow of < 100 ML/day as airspace operations ceased. The Lake Cowal system, which enters the Lachlan River just below Condobolin, was identified as the primary source of hypoxic blackwater to the river during a natural flood event. As the Lake Cowal system was contributing significant volumes (~10,000 ML/day) to the Lachlan River and was expected to do so for several months, there was concern that the large contribution of hypoxic water to the Lachlan may result in fish kills and other detrimental impacts.</p> <p>The quantum of well-oxygenated water from Wyangala Dam and tributary inflows arriving in the mid-Lachlan Condobolin area was considerably less relative to hypoxic Lake Cowal water (0.4 to 1.9 mg/L dissolved oxygen), which posed a risk to fish and other aquatic taxa. To reduce the risks associated with the entry of hypoxic water into the Lachlan River, a Technical Advisory Group (TAG) was formed to develop a water release plan to mitigate the possible negative effects through the delivery of both planned and held environmental water. The TAG agreed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immediately use environmental water to provide approximately the same discharge rate (ML/day) as during the later stages of airspace program (~2000 ML/day). • set a target of 3000 ML/day at Forbes to improve the ratio of good to poor quality water. This dilution was sufficient in maintaining a base flow, and improved conditions by increasing velocities, promoting mixing between oxygenated and deoxygenated water thereby providing microhabitats to support native fish. The target of 3000 ML/day at Forbes was also made up from tributaries with good quality water above Forbes (e.g. Belubula and Boorowa rivers). <p>The TAG then advised the gradual step down to base flow and a long recession that would be in line with localised floodplain return; until irrigation season started in December.</p> <p>This watering event was consistent with the overall environmental objectives of the Basin Plan by protecting water-dependent ecosystems and the annual priority of supporting viable populations of native fish through protection of drought refuges, instream habitats and essential functions. To deliver this flow effectively through applying the precautionary principle, working with experts and the local community. This delivery was regularly monitored to ensure effective adaptive management was in place.</p> <p>The NSW Prerequisite Policy Measures Implementation Plan was been endorsed by the MDBA as meeting the requirements of s7.15 of the Basin Plan in July 2017. The Plan has been developed to operationalise how NSW will maximise the efficient use and outcomes of licensed environmental water, whilst maintaining the same reliability of water supply to consumptive users under the Basin Plan. NSW will implement PPMs in the regulated Murrumbidgee and Murray-Lower Darling Rivers, as PPMs are only required in water sources</p>

		<p>where supply measures are proposed.</p> <p>While passive protection of environmental flows exists under the Barwon-Darling Water Sharing Plan in the form of Cap (and Plan limit), NSW continues to be willing to implement PPMs in the Barwon-Darling (i.e. shepherding) so long as there are not adverse third party impacts.</p>
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C. Water Quality and Salinity Management

Reporting Matter	Supporting evidence to be provided by Basin States	Response (milestone achievement/compliance status)
Implementation of the water quality and salinity management plan, including the extent to which regard is had to the targets in Chapter 9 when making flow management decisions.		
<p>C1 Regard had to the targets in s9.14 when managing water flows</p> <p><i>Applicable to Schedule 12, Matter 14, Indicator 14.1 and BPIA 21.1</i></p>	<p>Provide a summary of how your State 'had regard' to water quality targets when managing water flows, including a statement that procedures and tools were in place, and how these were used in the reporting year. Provide a case study where possible.</p>	<p>NSW is in the process of developing its Water Quality Management Plans which will demonstrate detailed procedures and tools required for having regard for the targets in s9.14 when managing water flows. Current procedures and tools to enable meeting water quality targets for dissolved oxygen, recreational water quality and salinity are:</p> <p>s9.14 a) to maintain dissolved oxygen at a target value of at least 50% saturation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● NSW operates a network of dissolved oxygen early warning sensors in the Murray and Riverina regions. Information from these sensors is disseminated weekly during high risk times and management options discussed by multi-agency river operation groups when a warning for a potential low dissolved oxygen or blackwater event is triggered. ● Physical monitoring of dissolved oxygen occurs routinely in all NSW Murray-Darling Basin catchments, with the potential to monitor key water flow events as required during high risk times. <p>s9.14 b) the targets for recreational water quality in s9.18</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In NSW, the State Algae Advisory Group, the Technical Advisory Group and the six Regional Algal Coordinating Committees within the Murray-Darling Basin are coordinated under the NSW Algal Risk Management Framework. ● Managing the risk of algal blooms in NSW fresh waters includes a multi-agency coordinated algal monitoring program, management of blooms and the release of public notifications. Algal warning levels are for recreational water use as set out in the Australian Guidelines for Managing Risks in Recreational Water. <p>s9.14 c) the levels of salinity at the reporting sites set out in the following table should not exceed the values set out in the table, 95% of the time.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● NSW continuously monitors river salinity at a number of key locations within the Murray-Darling Basin. ● Modelling tools support salinity management by enabling assessment of salinity regimes under a 'stationary' water management regime, enabling different management options to be explored and evaluated, or to allow the extrapolation of salinity into the future or into geographic areas where there is little data available. ● NSW adheres to its obligations under the Basin Salinity Management Strategy by remaining a positive balance on the salinity registers, and to maintain the Basin salinity targets in the Murray–Darling Basin Agreement for salinity planning and management. ● The Murray-Darling Basin Authority, Basin Officials Committee and Basin States undertake long-term salinity planning and management functions in accordance with the targets in Appendix 1 of Schedule B, including the Basin Salinity Management Strategy Operational Protocols. <p>NSW undertakes routine state-wide river water quality monitoring at key locations across all catchments of</p>

		<p>the NSW Murray-Darling Basin; this includes the capture and characterisation of rivers and streams in terms of long-term physical and chemical features. Existing operational governance structures are in place to inform water management in NSW. Water Sharing Plans for regulated rivers that have an Environmental Contingency Allowance have water set aside for environmental flows to assist with management of poor water quality events. Further development of Monitoring and Evaluation Plans are currently under way to allow greater regard for the water quality targets in Chapter 9 of the Basin Plan.</p> <p>Case Study</p> <p>In 2016, the lower Darling River ceased to flow, with water retreating to standing pools. The water quality in the remnant pools used for water supply was surveyed in April 2016 and was found to be generally poor with high electrical conductivity, algae and macrophyte loads. When weather conditions changed in May and June, and rainfall brought inflows to Menindee, releases to the Lower Darling could resume.</p> <p>The initial release was designed with a peak of a few days of around 1500 ML/day and tapering back to flows of 150 ML/day for six to eight months. In 2004 the Lower Darling River received the return of flows after a period of drought. The flows occurred over summer and started at a flow of 40 ML/day and increased to 200 ML/day over a period of weeks. This release resulted in significant fish kills along the Darling River as the poor quality water was flushed downstream from standing pools. The proposed flows from Lake Wetherell for late July 2016 differ from the 2004 release in that they are larger (up to 1 500 ML/day) and the timing of the release scheduled for winter when large standing pools were less likely to be stratified.</p> <p>DPI Water in collaboration with WaterNSW undertook to monitor water flow and quality and provide timely advice to water users so that they could take necessary precautions relevant to their enterprise. For example, abstain from irrigation while the salt peak passes, take water from the top of the water column and if necessary be prepared to treat water for a period. No fish kills were observed during this period.</p>
<p>C2 Regard had to the targets in s9.14 when making decisions about the use of environmental water</p> <p><i>Applicable to Schedule 12, Matter 14, Indicator 14.2 and BPIA 21.1</i></p>	<p>Provide a summary of how your State 'had regard' to the targets in s9.14 when making decisions about the use of environmental water. Include a statement that procedures and tools were in place, and how these were used in the reporting year.</p> <p>Provide a case study where possible.</p>	<p>NSW environmental water events seek to maximise environmental outcomes whilst having regard to the Basin Plan's water quality and salinity targets. All approvals for environmental water releases need to demonstrate adequate risk identification and mitigation, and have regard to the targets in s9.14, as prescribed in any request to deliver environmental water.</p> <p>All requests for environmental water releases are required to demonstrate adequate risk identification and mitigation prior to approval. Watering events also need to have regard to the targets in s9.14 and reflected in requests to deliver environmental water. Where possible, modelling/decision support tools are used to assess potential water quality impacts of proposed water actions (e.g. bank erosion, blackwater, acid sulphate soils, salinity, dissolved oxygen and temperature).</p> <p>Additionally, risk mitigation strategies identify potential water quality impacts and salinity issues that may occur during the delivery of environmental water, and responses to these potential risks. These may include cessation of water delivery, changes to the timing, duration or inundation extent of the environmental water delivery, or use of dilution flows.</p>

		<p>Risk assessments, monitoring, and mitigation actions were undertaken for all NSW environmental water events in 2016/2017. Prior to the release of environmental flows, relevant infrastructure managers were consulted, and throughout the course of watering events, regular phone calls, email updates, and site inspections with stakeholders and landholders were carried out to keep them informed and mitigate any concerns. In the event of any changes in water quality, there was appropriate communication with scientists, government, and the community in order to implement appropriate mitigation strategies. Climatic changes were also monitored and watering adjusted accordingly in order to minimise impacts of flood water.</p> <p>2016/2017 environmental watering events in NSW were completed with largely positive support from community, landholders, other stakeholders and relevant government departments, delivering positive environmental outcomes.</p> <p>Case Study</p> <p>In November 2016, NSW DPI Water provided approval under Clause 28 of the Water Sharing Plan for the Lachlan Regulated River Water Source 2016 for the use of up to 15,000 ML of the Water Quality Allowance (WQA). The Lachlan Environmental Water Advisory Group had provided advice about the urgent need to manage the effects of blackwater following widespread flooding in the valley and supported the use of this allowance water. WaterNSW were instructed, in accordance with Schedule 1 Clause 6 of the Water Supply Works Approval for the Lachlan Regulated River Water Source, to release and account for the use of up to 15,000 ML of water against the water quality allowance. On 3 November, up to 15,000 ML of the water quality allowance was allocated for use in the Lachlan River system to maintain a steady base flow as flooding subsided, and deliver better quality water to affected areas downstream of Forbes. The flow level was managed to be wholly in-channel and allowed water on the floodplain to continue returning to the river.</p> <p>The use of the WQA was not expected to prevent all fish deaths but its intent was to reduce the severity and duration of any such events by creating local refuges with increased oxygen levels, by enabling fish to seek and move to areas of better water quality, and by assisting in the recovery of stressed native fish.</p> <p>Decisions regarding daily flow rates at key points in the system were made in consultation with the Lachlan Environmental Water Advisory Group (EWAG) and a Technical Advisory Group (TAG) established for this purpose. These groups included representatives from Central Tablelands Local Land Services who Chair the Lachlan EWAG, DPI Water, DPI Fisheries, WaterNSW, Lachlan Valley Water, Commonwealth Environmental Water Office (CEWO) and NSW Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH).</p> <p>CEWO and NSW OEH released 21GL in addition to the 15GL from the water quality allowance. Monitoring highlighted a number of low dissolved oxygen hot spots associated with water draining off the floodplain. Following the 15GL of WQA, a combination of Commonwealth and NSW environmental water up to 21GL was released from November 10 to continue the support and provide a refuge for fish populations and other aquatic animals.</p> <p>Daily flow rates were managed to take into account the contribution of tributary inflows upstream of Forbes</p>
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		in conjunction with releases of WQA water from Wyangala Dam. The Lachlan EWAG and TAG continued to monitor and reassess the situation daily, informing the duration of the water quality management event, which lasted to 13 December.
Application of salinity targets for the purposes of long-term salinity planning and management (Refers compliance status with section s9.19 of the Basin Plan).		
<p>C3 Apply salinity targets in the Murray–Darling Basin Agreement for salinity planning and management.</p> <p><i>Applicable to Schedule 12, Matter 14 and BPIA 23.1</i></p>	<p>The MDBA, the BOC, and Basin States are to undertake any long-term salinity planning and management functions in accordance with the targets in Appendix 1 of Schedule B of the Murray-Darling Basin Agreement (including the Basin Salinity Management Strategy Operational Protocols).</p> <p>Please indicate how this is done.</p>	<p>NSW is operating within the BSM2030 Strategy through active participation at the Advisory Panel which oversees the Accountability Arrangements, Technical Reviews and policy development. NSW has also undertaken work to support the salinity component of the Basin Plan Water Quality and Salinity Management Plan, with updating river system models, reporting against Chapter 9 Targets, and identifying flow and landscape causes of salinity and management responses if any. Salinity is considered in the ewater planning processes when assessing water quality. Technical Reviews have been completed for three studies, and the remainder are underway.</p>
Water quality and salinity trigger points		
<p>C4 Determine whether the trigger is reached.</p> <p><i>Applicable to BPIA 26.1</i></p>	<p>The Guideline for the triggers and processes for changing water sharing Tiers provides guidance on how the MDBA and Basin States should communicate if the triggers are reached.</p> <p>Please indicate if a trigger was reached and if so, what action was taken.</p>	<p>NSW is not aware of any triggers being breached that would result in a need for emergency response during the year.</p>

D. Water Trading

Reporting Matter	Supporting evidence to be provided by Basin States	Response (milestone achievement/compliance status)
<i>The implementation of water trading rules.</i>		
<p>D1 Compliance with the Basin Plan water trading rules</p> <p><i>Applicable to Schedule 12, Matter 16, Indicator 16.1 and BPIA 29.1-31.1</i></p>	<p>Provide website links to the publication of information regarding an Approval Authority's interest in a trade (s12.38(2)).</p> <p>Provide documentation to support compliance with s12.37 (notice of disclosure)</p> <p>Describe how you have notified affected parties with the decision to restrict a trade and reasons for the restriction consistent with 12.39.</p> <p>How has your State undertaken best endeavours to ensure water announcements have been made generally available?</p> <p>Provide documentation that supports a compliance with s12.50 (water announcements to be made generally available).</p>	<p>NSW does not currently provide information on the disclosure of relevant interests where the approval authority is a party to the trade. NSW is aware of its obligations under section 12.38(2) of the Basin Plan and has commenced discussions with the Murray-Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) through the Trade Rules Working Group. It is anticipated that this issue will be addressed through a negotiated workplan with the MDBA. In addition, a Market Sensitive Information Policy is being finalised along with guidelines on the 'Communication of Market Sensitive Information' and 'Breach Management'.</p> <p>The administrative process adopted for the receiving and determination of trades in NSW results in trades being "not refused." The definition/interpretation of trade refusal is currently subject to discussions with the MDBA through the Trade Rules Working Group. Environmental water trades are recorded on the public NSW Water Register. https://ewp.water.dpi.nsw.gov.au/ewr/main/erShWaterAllocTrade</p> <p>Water Brokers undertake the transfers on behalf of the Office of Environment and Heritage. Where a trade price has been recorded incorrectly on the register, WaterNSW is notified by email.</p> <p>Information about water announcements are made generally available and can be accessed via: http://www.water.nsw.gov.au/water-management/water-availability/water-allocations http://www.water.nsw.gov.au/water-management/water-availability/available-water-determinations/water-allocations-summary http://www.water.nsw.gov.au/ http://www.water.nsw.gov.au/water-licensing/registers</p>
<p>D2 Trade processing times</p> <p><i>Applicable to Schedule 12, Matter 16, Indicator 16.2; NPA 6d and BPIA 29.1-31.1</i></p>	<p>Report on interstate and intrastate trade processing times (as per the COAG service and reporting standards for trade processing times).</p> <p>Can you provide confirmation that applications for entitlement and allocation trades to which the Commonwealth was a party were processed consistent with the agreed service standards.</p>	<p>The NSW water register provides a record of applications for approval. The details include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the date the application was received 2. the water source to which it relates 3. the category of approval the applicant is seeking and type of work 4. the status of the application <p>Details on trade processing times can be found on this register at: http://www.water.nsw.gov.au/water-licensing/registers</p> <p>National Partnership Agreement (NPA) 6d - NSW has processed applications for water entitlement and allocation trades to which the Commonwealth was a party consistent with the agreed service standards for trade processing times for state approval agencies.</p>

		<p>Basin Plan Implementation Agreement (BPIA) 29.1 NSW is continuing to work with the MDBA to ensure NSW trade rules are consistent with the water trading rules set out by the Basin Plan. Several issues have been identified to be resolved as a part of Water Resource Plan development. Discussion between NSW and the Authority are ongoing to resolve the priority issues as identified by the Authority, to the satisfaction of both parties.</p> <p>BPIA 31.1 NSW provided initial reports to the MDBA of the information required under Section 12.43 - 12.44 and 12.46 in accordance with the request of the Authority and the Basin Plan respectively. Communication is ongoing between NSW and the Authority and further reporting under Section 12.46 may be required depending on the outcome of these discussions.</p>
<p>Restrictions on trade and their application (Refers compliance status with sections s12.02-12.27 of the Basin Plan).</p>		
<p>D3 Ensure trades are consistent with the water trading rules</p> <p><i>Applicable to Schedule 12, Matter 16; NPA 6a, 6b and 6e and BPIA 29.1</i></p>	<p>Describe how the Basin State exercised its best endeavours to ensure that Basin States trading rules are consistent with the Basin Plan water trading rules</p> <p>If your State has implemented any new restrictions on trade, have you notified the MDBA of the restriction and notified if consistent with s12.19.</p> <p>You must also report on any surface water entitlements which are not consistent with clauses 28 to 32 of the NWI.</p>	<p>National Partnership agreement (NPA) 6a: NSW has removed volumetric or other barriers to permanent trade out of water irrigation areas that are inconsistent with the Basin Plan water trading rules.</p> <p>NPA 6b: NSW has not introduced restrictions on the trading of water access entitlement, except where consistent with the Basin Plan water trading rules.</p> <p>NPA 6e: NSW confirms that entitlements in regulated surface water systems are consistent with clauses 28 to 32 of the National Water Initiative, unless where otherwise agreed.</p> <p>Basin Plan implementation Agreement (BPIA) 29.1: NSW is continuing to work with the MDBA to ensure NSW trade rules are consistent with the water trading rules set out by the Basin Plan. Several issues have been identified to be resolved as a part of Water Resource Plan development. Discussion between NSW and the Authority are ongoing to resolve the priority issues as identified by the Authority, to the satisfaction of both parties. NSW has now transitioned to a planning phase which will trigger the resolution of issues.</p>
<p>Information and reporting requirements</p>		
<p>D4 Provide information on water access rights and water trade rules.</p> <p><i>Applicable to Schedule 12, Matter 16 and BPIA 31.1</i></p>	<p>Has the Basin State made any changes to the water access rights displayed on the MDBA's Water Market products page? If so what documentation has been provided to the MDBA with the updated information as required un s12.43?</p> <p>Has the Basin State implemented any new trade rules that regulate the trade of tradable water access rights? If so have they provided these rules to the MDBA as required under s12.46?</p>	<p>Basin Plan Implementation Agreement 31.1 NSW provided initial reports to the Murray-Darling Basin Authority of the information required under Section 12.43 - 12.44 and 12.46 in accordance with the request of the Authority and the Basin Plan respectively. Communication is ongoing between NSW and the Authority and further reporting under Section 12.46 may be required depending on the outcome of these discussions.</p>
<p>D5 Report trade prices</p> <p><i>Applicable to Schedule 12, Matter 16 and BPIA 31.2</i></p>	<p>Has the Basin State sold water in the previous year? If so, did they notify the approval or registration authority of the price agreed for the trade?</p>	<p>Currently, all applications for water trade in NSW require the seller to include the price of the trade. This information is currently available online via the NSW Water register. A review of Trade in NSW was undertaken by external consultants that identified a number of areas for trade improvements including the publication of value added summarized trading price information. The development of these products is currently underway.</p>

E. Northern Basin Review

Reporting Matter	Supporting evidence to be provided by Basin States	Response (milestone achievement/compliance status)
Reviews of the Plan		
<p>E1 Provide advice and assessments of the MDBA's studies for, and review of, the work underpinning the SDLs in the Northern Basin.</p> <p><i>Applicable to BPIA 13.1</i></p>	<p>The MDBA will undertake the review of the work underpinning SDLs for the Northern Basin, in collaboration with New South Wales and Queensland, who will participate in the review and advise on associated studies, processes and final recommendations.</p> <p>Relevant States should provide evidence of their involvement in the review, including their participation in relevant advisory groups.</p>	<p>NSW continued its involvement in the Northern Basin Review (NBR) throughout 2016-17. NSW participated in the Northern Basin Interagency Working Group as well as the Senior Officials Group and involved attending numerous meetings in Canberra as well as teleconferences as required to work towards developing a shared interjurisdictional response to the NBR through the Ministerial Council.</p> <p>NSW also discussed the NBR issues, as appropriate, at the Basin Officials Committee and the Murray-Darling Basin Ministerial Council meetings. Through these forums NSW has committed to delivering on the recommendations made by the Murray-Darling Basin Authority for options to improve environmental outcomes in the northern Basin. NSW is working with the Commonwealth and Queensland Governments on work plans to develop and implement appropriate measures to give affect to the recommendations.</p> <p>NSW's involvement in the NBR included technical input and review of hydrological modelling studies, socioeconomic assessments and related environmental projects. NSW also advised on consultation activities and possible alternatives for achieving the desired triple bottom line outcomes.</p> <p>In November 2016, NSW published a brief report outlining NSW's approach to the NBR. The report is available at http://www.water.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0011/688790/Northern-Basin-Review-NSW-Synopsis-fact-sheet_161130.pdf</p> <p>In February 2017, NSW provided a submission on the proposed Basin Plan amendments - a large part of the proposed amendments involved the NBR. http://www.water.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0013/700501/NSW-submission-on-proposed-basin-plan-amendments.pdf</p>

F. SDL Adjustment & Constraints Management

Reporting Matter	Supporting evidence to be provided by Basin States	Response (milestone achievement/compliance status)
Constraints Management Strategy		
<p>F1 Review and provide advice on measures recommended in the Constraints Management Strategy.</p> <p><i>Applicable to NPA 7 and BPIA 14.1</i></p>	<p>The Basin States will review the recommendations of the Constraints Management Strategy having regard to benefits and costs, available funding, third party impacts and community views.</p> <p>Basin States will advise the MDBA of their proposed responses to the relevant Constraints Management Strategy recommendations.</p>	<p>NSW, together with Victoria and South Australia have agreed to progress the constraint measure investigations for priority areas. NSW will develop the proposals for communities and regions within NSW.</p> <p>The NSW Government is committed to a community-lead program to address constraints, through improvements to crossings, culverts and bridges. This also means identifying a community-led model to ensure appropriate time for delivery, rather than having legislative deadlines drive a landholder engagement process. NSW is following a principles based approach to ensure that the focus on constraints measures ensures that a process is developed that avoids or mitigates third party impacts, in addressing impediments to delivering environmental water.</p>
<p>F2: Develop constraint management proposals.</p> <p><i>Applicable to NPA 7 and BPIA 14.2</i></p>	<p>Basin States may develop proposals to address constraints, having regard to the Constraints Management Strategy</p>	<p>In 2016/17, NSW submitted Business Cases to address operational constraints in four focus areas identified in the Constraints Management Strategy, namely: Murrumbidgee, Lower Darling (as part of the Menindee Lakes Operational and Structural changes supply measure), Yarrowonga to Wakool and Hume to Yarrowonga (as a joint proponent with Victoria).</p> <p>These projects were included in the package of Sustainable Diversion Limit (SDL) adjustment measures endorsed by the Basin Officials Committee (BOC) on 22 June 2017.</p> <p>NSW has participated in the Constraints Management Working Group established by the BOC to identify and address common issues across all constraints measures.</p> <p>NSW is examining and developing options for the Gwydir Constraints proposal through the Northern Basin Review recommendations process.</p>
Preparation of proposed measures for SDL adjustment		
<p>F3 Prepare and assess proposals for supply measures.</p> <p><i>Applicable to BPIA 15.1</i></p>	<p>Proponents will prepare proposals in accordance with assessment guideline and informed by the method for calculation of supply contribution. SDLAAC and BOC will assess the proposals.</p>	<p>NSW is lead or co-proponent for 23 of 37 of the supply measures notified by Basin Officials Committee (BOC) to the Murray-Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) on 22 June 2017. This package includes a number of complex, ambitious NSW proposals which significantly contribute to the estimated Sustainable Diversion Limit (SDL) adjustment volume for the package.</p> <p>Detailed information on the NSW projects are available on the DPI Water website: http://www.water.nsw.gov.au/water-management/water-recovery/environmental-works</p> <p>The full list of projects is available on the MDBA website: https://www.mdba.gov.au/basin-plan-roll-</p>

		<p>out/sustainable-diversion-limits/sdl-adjustment-proposals-state-projects.</p> <p>NSW has been a full participant in the interjurisdictional review of all supply measures via the Sustainable Diversion Limit Adjustment Assessment Committee and BOC and has continued to provide input at a technical and policy level to the development of the SDL adjustment mechanism.</p>
<p>F4 Prepare and assess proposals for efficiency measures</p> <p><i>Applicable to BPIA 15.2</i></p>	<p>Basin States may develop and implement proposals for efficiency measures for inclusion in the BOC package of measures prior to 30 June 2016. Basin States may also develop and implement proposals for additional efficiency measures after 30 June 2016.</p>	<p>NSW is working alongside Basin governments to develop the best pathway for efficiency measures to recover an additional 450 GL by 2024, consistent with the Basin Plan legal requirement to achieve neutral or improved socio-economic outcomes.</p> <p>As part of this, Ministerial Council requested independent expert analysis on how best to design, target and resource efficiency measure programs to recover 450 GL by 30 June 2024, consistent with the Basin Plan legal requirement to achieve neutral or improved socio-economic outcomes. This work will inform the final program design for delivering the efficiency measures objectives; NSW will continue to work with the Commonwealth and Basin jurisdictions to ensure that project options are identified within this framework that meets the expectations and legislative requirements for socio-economic neutrality.</p>
<p>Reallocation of reduction requests</p>		
<p>F5 Request MDBA to propose re-allocation of shared reduction amount.</p> <p><i>Applicable to BPIA 16.1</i></p>	<p>Basin States can request the MDBA to propose a re-allocation of the shared reduction amount within affected SDL resource units in that Basin State.</p>	<p>In the absence of advice from the MDBA, in relation to the final outcomes of the SDL Adjustment Mechanism, NSW has no additional information on which to develop an alternative proposal, and as such NSW has advised the MDBA that the preferred approach for NSW is to use the default re-allocation proportions at this stage.</p> <p>NSW will work with the MDBA and other Basin States to revise the re-allocation approach, if required, once the outcome of the SDL Adjustment Mechanism is known.</p>

G. Critical Human Water Needs

Reporting Matter	Supporting evidence to be provided by Basin States	Response (milestone achievement/compliance status)
<i>Risk management approach for inter-annual planning for critical human water needs arrangements</i>		
<p>G1 Consider the water available for critical human water needs before allocating water to other uses.</p> <p><i>Applicable to BPIA 27.1</i></p>	<p>The MDBA will provide New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia with Water Resource Assessments, from which the States make decisions about allocations. Assessments will be provided at least monthly, and more frequently if conditions warrant.</p>	<p>There was no critical water shortage in the southern connected Basin and Murray water sharing did not leave Tier 1 arrangements.</p> <p>NSW addressed critical human needs and ensured they were a priority and met in the Lower Darling through a period of limited access to high priority licences in the beginning of 2016-17 (less than full allocation to local water utility, domestic and stock, and high security licences), until full allocation to all high priority licences was provided 1 September 2016, and full allocation was given to general security licences on 4 October 2016. However, the Lower Darling was in NSW control until mid-October 2016 and therefore not part of the shared Murray system during the time of these lower allocations.</p>
<p>G2 Make decisions on allocations.</p> <p><i>Applicable to BPIA 27.2</i></p>	<p>During periods of Tier 3 water sharing arrangements, the MDBA will provide the Ministerial Council with Water Resource Assessments, from which New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia make decisions about allocations when determining if water can be made available for uses other than critical human water. Assessments will be provided at least monthly, and more frequently if conditions warrant.</p> <p>A Basin State must have regard to advice from the Authority regarding the volume of water to be made available to it in a particular year, when making decisions about whether water is made available for uses other than meeting critical human water needs (s11.08(3)).</p>	<p>There was no critical water shortage in the southern connected Basin and Murray water sharing did not leave Tier 1 arrangements.</p>
<i>Commencement and cessation of Tier 3 water sharing arrangements</i>		
<p>G3 Determine whether the trigger is reached and Tier 3 applies.</p> <p><i>Applicable to BPIA 28.1</i></p>	<p>The MDBA, through the preparation of the Water Resource Assessment will determine if the appropriate conditions apply. If New South Wales, Victoria or South Australia considers the triggers have been reached, its BOC member should advise the Executive Director, River Management Division, MDBA. The Guideline for triggers and processes for changing water sharing Tiers provides more information on how the MDBA will communicate a change in water sharing arrangements to the Basin States, CEWH and the Department.</p> <p>Please indicate if a trigger was reached and what action was taken to implement water sharing arrangements.</p>	<p>There was no critical water shortage in the southern connected Basin and Murray water sharing did not leave Tier 1 arrangements.</p>

H. Water Resource Plans

Reporting Matter	Supporting evidence to be provided by Basin States	Response (milestone achievement/compliance status)
Reporting requirements		
<p>H1 Develop water quality management plans as part of their water resource plans that identify measures to achieve objectives.</p> <p><i>Applicable to BPIA 22.1</i></p>	<p>Please provide a statement of progress where water quality management plans have not yet been developed.</p> <p>The Handbook for Practitioners for Chapter 10, Water Resource Plan Requirements provides guidance regarding the development and accreditation of water resource plans.</p>	<p>Water quality management plans will form part of the Water Resource Plan package for each Water Resource Plan area. Each plan will provide understanding on current risks to water quality condition, including objectives and management strategies. Draft technical reports to support the Gwydir, Lachlan and Macquarie water quality management plans have been developed and will be presented at stakeholder advisory panels for further consultation. Technical analysis including risk assessment has commenced for all other Water Resource Plan areas.</p>
Develop of water resource plans for accreditation		
<p>H2 Develop water resource plans for accreditation</p> <p><i>Applicable to BPIA 24.1</i></p>	<p>Please provide a statement of progress where water resource plans have not yet been developed.</p>	<p>The NSW Water Resource Plans (WRPs) are in progress. A NSW Water Resource Plan Roadmap 2016–2019 has been developed outlining the schedule for delivery of the Water Resource Plans. 20 status and issues reports have been released for public comment. These 20 reports cover the 22 WRP areas.</p> <p>The reports describe the WRP area, documents known issues and initiate the consultation process for each plan area. The purpose of this phase is to ensure all stakeholder issues are on the table before the planning process begins.</p> <p>Stakeholder Advisory Panels have been established for 21 of the 22 WRPs, including the establishment of a statewide Stakeholder Advisory Panel for the 13 Groundwater Water Resource Plans which will meet in September 2017. As of June 2017, a total of 11,280 water users and other stakeholders have been invited to participate in consultation for Water Resource Plans.</p> <p>17 of the 22 plans have moved into the Strategy and Rule Development Phase where issues are assessed to determine whether they can be considered during the Water Resource Planning process. Options are developed for issues that require further consideration. Each option is prioritised against a number of criteria, analysis methods are identified and metrics for assessing the potential impacts of these options defined. Three of the WRPs are now analysing options for presentation to the Stakeholder Advisory Panels for feedback.</p> <p>Detailed resource description reports have been prepared for 8 of the 9 surface water WRPs. Resource descriptions for the 13 groundwater WRPs are being developed. Evaluation reports have been prepared for 7 surface water Water Sharing Plans that have been in effect for more than ten years. Evaluation reports are nearly completed for the groundwater WRPs. Risk assessments are nearing completion for all 22 WRP areas - the results of these assessments along with learnings from the evaluations will feed into the Strategy and Rule Development Phase. Planning for Extreme events in the Basin has commenced. A legislative mapping</p>

		exercise has been completed and the preparation of templates for surface water and Groundwater Resource Plans is underway.
<i>Development of an integrated hydrologic model across the Basin</i>		
H3 Adopt eWater source <i>Applicable to BPIA 25.1</i>	Please provide a statement of progress where eWater source has not yet been adopted. The MDBA standard for water resource plan accreditation is eWater Source for water resource planning and operations, having regard to the modelling practices of Basin States and the nature of water resource plan areas and operational readiness of the model as it relates to a water resource plan area.	The Border Rivers Source Model has been completed in collaboration with Queensland and is being used for Water Resource Planning and Floodplain Harvesting Volumetric Entitlement Determination. Work is advanced on Murrumbidgee Source Model and is scheduled to commence for Barwon Darling and Lachlan in October.

Statement of reasons why watering not undertaken in accordance with Basin Environmental Watering Priorities (BAEWP) for 2016-17 (Refer Matter 10 – Indicator 10.3 and BP IA Task 20.2)

Section 8.44 of the Basin Plan (2012) requires that: If a person undertakes environmental watering other than in accordance with the Basin annual environmental watering priorities accessible on MDBA's website, that a person must give to the Authority a statement of reasons why environmental watering has not been undertaken in accordance with the Basin annual environmental watering priorities (8.44(1)). The person must give the statement to the Authority as soon as practicable, but in any event within four months after the end of the water accounting period in which the environmental watering was undertaken (8.44(2)). The Authority may publish on its website the statement of reasons given.

	Basin annual environmental watering (BAEWP) priorities for 2016–17	Jurisdictions to consider reporting	Please tick (x), where BAEWP not followed	Statement of reasons why BAEWP not followed
River flows and connectivity				
1	Overarching: to provide longitudinal connectivity and variable flow patterns for water quality and ecological benefit — particularly for native fish.	NSW, Vic, Qld, SA, ACT, CEWH, TLM		
2	Maintain waterholes in the Lower Balonne Floodplain to provide critical refuge for water-dependent species.	Qld, NSW, CEWH		
3	Protect aquatic habitat conditions in the Coorong and support native fish movement by optimising flows into the Coorong and through the Murray Mouth. November 2016 addendum: Protect aquatic habitat conditions in the Coorong and support native fish movement by optimising flows into the Coorong and through the Murray Mouth. In particular, promote <i>Ruppia</i> recruitment by elevating water levels in the Coorong from October to December by building on the unregulated flows	SA, CEWH, TLM		

	Basin annual environmental watering (BAEWP) priorities for 2016–17	Jurisdictions to consider reporting	Please tick (x), where BAEWP not followed	Statement of reasons why BAEP not followed
	with environmental water.			
Native vegetation				
4	Overarching: to water discrete locations that include threatened vegetation or support other threatened species and communities, including vegetation that is critical waterbird foraging or breeding habitat.	NSW, Vic, Qld, SA, ACT, CEWH, TLM		
5	Improve the condition of wetland vegetation communities in the mid-Murrumbidgee wetlands that provide critical habitat for threatened species and communities.	NSW, CEWH		
6	Improve the health and complexity of waterbird rookery habitat in the northern Narran Lakes system.	NSW, QLD CEWH		
7	November 2016 addendum: Prevent further critical deterioration of Moira grass in Barmah–Millewa Forest, subject to resolving natural resource management issues.	NSW, Vic, CEWH, TLM		
8	November 2016 addendum: Maintain inundation of floodplain areas for sufficient duration to: freshen groundwater; reduce soil salinity; improve health of mature trees; and promote recruitment of long-lived floodplain vegetation, including seed set and germination.	NSW, Vic, Qld, SA, ACT, CEWH, TLM		

	Basin annual environmental watering (BAEWP) priorities for 2016–17	Jurisdictions to consider reporting	Please tick (x), where BAEWP not followed	Statement of reasons why BAEP not followed
Waterbirds				
9	Overarching: to prevent further decline in habitat that supports waterbird breeding across the basin and thereby to help stabilise waterbird populations, albeit at lower levels than are sought over the long term.	NSW, Vic, ACT, SA, Qld, CEWH, TLM		
10	November 2016 addendum: Capitalise on opportunities to support waterbird breeding. Sites in the Lachlan, Macquarie and Murray catchments now show potential for successful waterbird breeding in the coming months. At these sites, environmental water should be used to sustain the duration and depth of inundation so that the waterbirds can reproduce successfully.	NSW, Vic, ACT, SA, Qld, CEWH, TLM		
Native fish				
11	Overarching: to protect drought refuge habitats, to maintain in-stream habitats, and to ensure existing populations of threatened species remain viable.	NSW, Vic, ACT, SA, Qld, CEWH, TLM		
12	Contribute to the long-term recovery of silver perch by improving existing populations and enhancing conditions for recruitment and dispersal to and from suitable habitat.	NSW, Vic, ACT, SA, Qld, CEWH, TLM		

	Basin annual environmental watering (BAEWP) priorities for 2016–17	Jurisdictions to consider reporting	Please tick (x), where BAEWP not followed	Statement of reasons why BAEP not followed
13	Support viable populations of threatened native fish by protecting drought refuges and maintaining in-stream habitats and essential functions.	NSW, Vic, ACT, SA, Qld, CEWH, TLM		
14	Maximise opportunities for range expansion and the establishment of new populations of silver perch and other threatened fish, as conditions allow.	NSW, Vic, ACT, SA, Qld, CEWH, TLM		
15	<p>November 2016 addendum: Contribute to the long-term recovery of threatened fish species, including silver perch, through range expansion and establishment of new populations. Environmental water can benefit silver perch recruitment by dampening sharp and extended drops in River Murray levels downstream of Yarrawonga during late spring and summer. Provision of water for small in-channel rises in Victorian tributaries and the Murray in summer and autumn will support dispersal of young silver perch.</p>	NSW, Vic, ACT, SA, Qld, CEWH, TLM		