

The Hon. Neil Andrew
Chair, Murray-Darling Basin Authority,
51 Allara Street,
Canberra, ACT

28 April 2015

Dear Mr. Andrew,

The Independent Review Panel for the Sustainable Diversion Limit Adjustment – Ecological Elements (SDLA-EE) development project is pleased to provide this concluding advice to you, following our review of the Trial Implementation report submitted by the CSIRO-led project team on 8 April.

The Trial Implementation has further strengthened our confidence in the SDLA-EE method's robustness and applicability, and supports our advice on the (previous) Method Development report provided to MDBA Chair Hon Crag Knowles, 31 March 2014. Thus, it remains our judgement that the SDL-EE method complies with the review objectives set out in the IRP's terms of reference. In summary, these objectives ensure the method (is):

- Effectively represents equivalent ecological outcomes of supply measures
- Compatible with the Basin Plan ESLT assessment approach
- Practically applicable by MDBA and jurisdictions
- Sufficiently sensitive and discriminatory
- Appropriately informed by available scientific knowledge and practice

Through a rigorous process of testing and analysis by the CSIRO-led project team during the Trial Implementation, we have gained more than sufficient reassurance that the SDLA-EE method is scientifically fit for the purpose intended under Schedule 6 of the Basin Plan.

We acknowledge that some residual scientific argument has been provided by jurisdictions concerning one or two specific elements of the method. However, we do not consider that these arguments are scientifically sustainable, nor material.

We take this opportunity to thank the relevant staff at MDBA, Department of Environment and State agencies in NSW, Vic and SA for their diligent cooperation in assisting us with our inquiries during various stages of the review. We also congratulate the CSIRO-led project development team for completing an extremely difficult and world-leading project with such a high degree of scientific rigour and diligence.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you require further information about our findings.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gary Jones', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Gary Jones
On behalf of the **Independent Review Panel (IRP)**

Associate Professor Justin Brookes, University of Adelaide
Adjunct Professor Terry Hillman, LaTrobe University
Adjunct Professor Gary Jones, eWater, Univ. of Canberra & Univ. of New South Wales
Associate Professor Michael Stewardson, The University of Melbourne