



Australian Government



2019–20 Annual report on water compliance activities for the Murray–Darling Basin Authority

The Murray–Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) as an independent regulator, has responsibility for enforcing the *Water Act 2007* (Cth) (Water Act), the *Basin Plan 2012* (Cth) (Basin Plan) and ensuring compliance with water resource plans once they have been accredited. Basin state water agencies have day to day responsibility for water planning, water licensing, rule setting and state level compliance on issues relating to illegal water and metering.

Compliance and enforcement activities should be initiated at the appropriate jurisdictional level for the issue concerned. Where the MDBA receives allegations of non-compliance on issues where the Basin state has regulatory responsibility, these are referred on to the appropriate water agency for consideration. In these cases, the MDBA follows up with state agencies on a regular basis to ensure the MDBA is satisfied with action taken by the relevant state.

Report of compliance and enforcement activities for 2019-20 with previous year comparison

Activity	Comment
Number of meters read by compliance officers	The MDBA did not conduct meter reads in 2019–20
Number of telemetered meters	The MDBA does not administer telemetered meters and did not collect compliance information on telemetered meters in 2019–20
Number of meter inspections undertaken by compliance officers	The MDBA did not conduct meter inspections in 2019–20

Office locations

Adelaide, Albury–Wodonga, Canberra, Goondiwindi, Griffith, Mildura, Murray Bridge, Toowoomba

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Activity	2018–19	State ¹	2019–20	State
Alleged compliance breaches reported	24	QLD – 12 NSW – 9 VIC – 3	2	NSW – 2
- Allegations finalised (no breach found)	23	QLD – 10 NSW – 9 VIC – 3 SA – 1	11	QLD – 4 NSW – 4 VIC – 3
- Allegations under review as at June 30	12	QLD – 3 NSW – 6 VIC – 3	3	NSW – 3
- Allegations referred to a state water agency	11	QLD – 5 NSW – 6	1	NSW – 1

	Comment
Advisory letters issued	The MDBA did not issue any advisory letters in 2019–20
Formal warnings issued	The MDBA did not issues any formal warnings in 2019–20
Statutory notices issued	The MDBA did not issue any statutory notices in 2019–20
Licence cancellations and/or suspensions	Not relevant to the MDBA. The MDBA does not have this power under the Water Act.
Administrative sanctions	The MDBA did not issue any administrative sanctions in 2019–20
Statutory notices issued	The MDBA did not issue any statutory notices in 2019–20
Prosecutions	Frontline water regulation is largely undertaken by State governments. The Water Act currently has limited provisions for pursuing offences. The Australian Government is currently reviewing the water Act with a view to enhancing the penalty provisions, including offences, in proposed amendments to the Water Act.

¹ Reporting by location commenced from 2018–19

Performance targets

Service level targets	2018-19 Performance	2019-20 Performance
The MDBA will follow up with the referral agency one month after an allegation has been referred.	9 out of 11 allegations were followed up within one month of being referred	1 out of 1 allegation was followed up within one month of being referred
The MDBA will follow up with the referral agency two months after an allegation has been referred	5 out of 8 allegations were followed up within two months of being referred.	0 out of 1 allegation was followed up within two months of being referred.

All reasonable care is taken by the Murray–Darling Basin Authority to ensure that the information presented in this report is true and accurate.

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