



BN19/8740

Mr Brent Williams
A/Executive Director, Office of Compliance
Murray Darling Basin Authority
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Dear Mr Williams

2018/19 Draft Compliance Compact Assurance Report 2019 - NSW Management Response

Please see attached our management response to the New South Wales' section of the 2018/19 Compliance Compact Assurance Report 2019.

Should you need to discuss any aspects of this response please contact the undersigned on 0403 103 823 or at mitchell.isaacs@industry.nsw.gov.au

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. Isaacs'.

Mitchell Isaacs
Director, Office of the Deputy and Strategic Relations

20th December 2019

CC: Duncan Munro, A/Policy Coordination Officer, MDBA duncan.munro@mdba.gov.au



Department of Planning, Industry and Environment – Water

NSW comments on the Murray-Darling Basin Compliance Compact Assurance Report 2019

New South Wales has made significant inroads since the Murray-Darling Basin Compliance Compact was endorsed by Ministers in June 2018 and continues to demonstrate its commitment to ensuring integrity of water management in the Basin.

There are two actions that NSW provides comment on as set out below.

Action 3.7 – Each Basin State will report annually on progress with the implementation plan, including the relative proportion of take via AS4747 meters, interim verified meters, unverified meters and unmetred take

While the MDBA has determined that this action is “not complete but progressing against extended timelines,” NSW considers this action complete.

NSW provided the MDBA with its report on progress implementing the metering rules in October 2019. Some of the particulars in the Compliance Compact such as proportion of take via AS4747 meters were not able to be provided because the NSW Government has changed the roll out dates due to the severe drought conditions which made it impossible for most water users to meet their obligations by the original deadline. The stage 1 roll out date in the regulation is now 1 December 2020.

Action NSW5.2(b) - Implementing the SDL adjustment mechanism including completion of supply and constraints projects, subject to timely funding consistent with the 2013 IGA on Implementing Water Reform in the Murray Darling Basin by 30 June 2024

While the MDBA has determined that NSW is not adequately progressing completion of its supply and constraints projects, NSW has met all required milestones in our project agreement with the Commonwealth Government. The MDBA’s assessment does not acknowledge this.

NSW acknowledges the complex nature of some of our SDL adjustment mechanism projects including the Menindee Lakes Water Saving Project and constraints measures projects and the ambitious timeframes for delivery.

However, NSW is progressing supply and constraints projects against the funding agreement milestones as secured in February 2019 and NSW has met the required milestones on time and in full. The assessment that NSW is making inadequate progress is not supported by milestone evidence.

NSW has made significant inroads to rebuilding trust and will continue to grow community support for the outcomes of the Basin Plan that can be delivered by supply and constraints projects.

NSW is committed to co-design with communities and will continue working with the Commonwealth Department and the Murray Darling Basin Authority to ensure understanding and agreement regarding the delivery of supply and constraints projects.