

**Basin Plan Water Resource Plan
Requirements
Position Statement 10B
Estimate of long-term annual average take –
“measured and not measured”**

POLICY ISSUE	What does the estimate of the long-term annual average quantity of water taken that is measured and not measured mean, and how is it to be included in the WRP to address s10.44?
REFERENCES	<i>Basin Plan 2012 (Cth)</i> (ss 10.44 and 10.45).

MDBA POSITION STATEMENT
<p>To meet the requirements of s10.44 the following is required to be addressed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A Water Resource Plan must include the current best estimate of the total long-term annual average quantity of water taken for each class of water access right. In this context: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. water taken refers to each form of take, including water taken for consumptive use, for surface water and groundwater. It does not include water taken for environmental benefit. b. measured means water taken that is metered, and c. not measured means water taken that is quantified by a method other than metering. 2. In assessing this requirement, the MDBA will consider: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. information provided that clearly sets out how the quantities were calculated. Relevant information could be: the <i>period</i> of time the records of actual take cover, the <i>calculation method</i> used to determine the estimate of long-term annual average actual take – this is for each form of take and class of water access right, the <i>role models</i> provided in determining the estimate and, if models were used, a description of the model should be provided. b. the calculation methods should reflect measurement arrangements in place, in the water resource plan area, at the time of seeking accreditation. c. in setting out the calculation method for measured and not measured take all classes of water access right for all forms of take, including groundwater, are to be included. If part of the take from a class of water access right is measured and part is not measured this may involve two calculation methods of estimation and these should both be clearly set out. d. a consistent approach to the calculation method for equal classes of water access rights and forms of take within a Basin state should be adopted, where reasonable.

MDBA Reference:	D16/11860	<i>Accessed:</i>
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3. The WRP must also set out the *proportion* of water taken that is measured in accordance with standards agreed by Basin states and the Commonwealth (s10.44(d)). In the event that a relevant standard is agreed, a statement should be provided that includes the name or description of the standard/s along with the proportion. As of 2016 there are no agreed standards so the proportion should be reported as 0%.
4. Other position statements relevant to this statement that should be considered are:
 - Position Statement 3G – Characteristics of Water Access Rights
 - Position Statement 3C – Methods for determining take
 - Position Statement 3F – Limits on certain forms of take
 - Position Statement 12A – Best available information

Rationale

1. The purpose of this section is to establish a baseline as to how much water in the SDL resource unit is measured and how much is not measured. This information assists establishing confidence levels for the volumes to be reported under Water Act s.71 requirements. It also provides a baseline against which to show any improvements in measurements and management of the water resource within the sustainable diversions limits set.
2. All forms of metering are considered to be measured. This includes where the initial measurement may have to be converted into a volumetric unit or where there are different types of metering used across a water resource plan area. Examples of different types of metering include measuring depth through a regulator, magnetic flow meter, flume gauge, a Dethridge wheel, or measurement based on pump hours.
3. Examples of water taken that is not measured are: a survey of crops grown during the year as the basis for estimating the water taken, using the techniques that were used in the Basin Plan Schedule 3 for determining the long term estimates for take by runoff dams and net take by commercial plantations, estimates based on the volume of entitlements issued, or estimates based on a fixed volume per permit, licence or basic right.
4. The information to be provided for this section could be added to the example table provided in Position Statement 3G – Characteristics of Water Access Rights. There are requirements under s10.08 of the Basin Plan for a Basin State to provide information on the forms of take, classes of water access rights and the number of entitlements and volumes associated with those rights. As this information will also be required for the provision of information under s10.44, the example table shown in Position Statement 3G could be expanded to include s10.44 information.
5. The WRP should also provide a description of programs to improve metering and their *progress* where this is appropriate, in order to meet s10.45 requirements.