

Basin Plan Water Resource Plan Requirements Position Statement 10A Specifying Schedule 12 Water Resource Monitoring

POLICY ISSUE	What does a water resource plan need to include to meet the requirements of s10.46?
REFERENCES	<i>Basin Plan 2012</i> (s10.46, s13.14, Schedule 12, Basin Plan Schedule 12 Reporting Guidelines)

MDBA POSITION STATEMENT	
	<p>1. Section 10.46 requires water resource plans to specify the monitoring of water resources that will be done to fulfil Basin states' s13.14 (Schedule 12) reporting obligations. Section 10.46 does not operate to limit in any way any other monitoring that the state might undertake in relation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the water resources in the area, or • other elements of the water resource plan. <p>2. Of the 13 matters that Basin states are required to report on under Schedule 12, there are four core that require monitoring of water resources in order to report against them. These are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matter 8 – The achievement of environmental outcomes at an asset scale • Matter 9 – The identification of environmental water and the monitoring of its use • Matter 12 – Progress towards the water quality targets • Matter 19 – Compliance with water resource plans, particularly in relation to permissible water diversions. <p>3. Monitoring undertaken for these four matters is likely to also be relevant to reporting on a further 4 matters and may be referenced accordingly:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matter 4 – The effectiveness of the management of risks to Basin water resources • Matter 10 – The implementation of the environmental management framework (Part 4 of Chapter 8) • Matter 14 – The implementation of the water quality and salinity management plan • Matter 18 – The efficiency and effectiveness of the operation of water resource plans. <p>4. When specifying the monitoring, the water resource plan should provide a high-level description of the nature, extent and indicative frequencies of the monitoring</p>

MDBA Reference:	D16/29960	<i>Accessed:</i>
------------------------	-----------	------------------

in place.

5. The description should be written in a way that allows the monitoring program to change (e.g. in response to adaptive management) without triggering the need to amend and reaccredit the water resource plan. For this reason, detailed descriptions of state monitoring programs are not requested or required in state water resource plans.
6. Where possible, a state can provide supporting evidence about the monitoring, including future monitoring that will be done in the future to fulfil their Schedule 12 reporting obligations. This supporting evidence may be included in the water resource plan package of documents.
7. The Authority has published guidelines in relation to reporting requirements of Chapter 13 Part 4 (Basin Plan Schedule 12 reporting guidelines, v3.0 July 2015). The guidelines provide an additional level of detail and guidance to meet the legislative requirements, and inform the content of this position statement about Schedule 12. The guidelines are updated from time to time, and a state should refer to the most recent version.

Rationale

1. Section 10.46 requires water resource plans to specify the monitoring of water resources that will be done to enable states to meet their monitoring and reporting obligations in chapter 13 (s13.14) and Schedule 12 of the Basin Plan.
2. The *Water Act 2007* provides the following definition for water resources:
water resource means:
 - a. *surface water or ground water; or*
 - b. *a watercourse, lake, wetland or aquifer (whether or not it currently has water in it);*
and includes all aspects of the water resource (including water, organisms and other components and ecosystems that contribute to the physical state and environmental value of the water resource).
3. Schedule 12 lists 21 Matters that Basin states, the MDBA, the CEWH and the relevant Commonwealth Department must report on, either annually or five yearly, depending on the matter.
4. Basin states are required to report on 13 of the 21 matters. Monitoring of water resources of WRP areas is only directly relevant to 8 of these 13 (matters 4, 8, 9, 10, 12, 14, 18 and 19).
5. Based on the reporting indicators set out in the guidelines, it is not anticipated that monitoring of water resources would be necessary in order to report on the remaining five matters (6, 13, 16, 20 and 21).