

Attachment E: Provision of material relevant to *Better Management of Environmental Water*

NSW – MDBA Bilateral Agreement Action 3 Report

30 June 2021

NSW requirement

- 3.1 For the Barwon-Darling Watercourse, Gwydir and Macquarie-Castlereagh WRP areas, for each water accounting period in which there is not a proposed WRP for all three WRP areas, or a proposed WRP for one or more areas has been submitted but withdrawn before 30 June in that period, NSW will provide to the Authority a **report** which includes:
- 3.1.1 a progress report on delivery against the *Better management of environmental water work program*. (NSW Government, April 2019); and
 - 3.1.2 the draft rules proposed to improve the management and protection of environmental water in the Barwon-Darling Watercourse, Gwydir and Macquarie-Castlereagh WRP areas.
- 3.2 If any part of the delivery of the *Better management environmental water work program* is not complete, or draft rules referred to in paragraph 3.1.2 are not complete, NSW will provide, in addition to the report required by paragraph 3.1, a **report** explaining the reasons for non-completion.

Report

The April 2019 update of the [Better Management of Environmental Water Work Plan](#) is a NSW Water Reform Taskforce document that describes progress towards achieving interim and enduring Taskforce goals. It presents the pathway (at the time) for progressing solutions for better managing environmental water in NSW and includes milestones.

The Water Reform Taskforce program concluded in June 2020. Part of the finalisation of the program was to publish a final report documenting how NSW met the various milestones in the Work Plan. The final report is called the *Water Renewal Taskforce Better Management of Environmental Water Final Progress Report*. It was published on the DPIE Water Environmental Water Hub webpage in June 2020 and can be accessed [here](#).

Key progress milestones and their status are completion are:

- Legislative and WSP amendments – NSW *Water Management Act 2000* amendment, mandatory conditions, temporary water restrictions: **completed**
- Improve transparency and access to information – publish information about DPIE activities in protecting environmental water: **completed**
- Enduring solutions – manage resumption of flow, limit daily water take (individual daily extraction components on access licences - IDECs), actively manage HEW instream, better understand northern connectivity, improved governance: **completed**

Work on monitoring, evaluation and reporting is ongoing. Active management is subject to an annual review; other WSP rules (e.g. resumption of flows, IDECS) will be reviewed as WSP reach their 10 yr cycle for review. The department is currently waiting on a report from an independent review into the initial implementation of IDECs, the resumption of flow rule and active management. It is also working on implementing the Interim Unregulated Flow Plan for the North-west in addition to a range of other connectivity initiatives and investigations being undertaken as part of the Regional Water Strategies and Healthy Floodplains programs.