

BN18/9310

Mr Russell James  
Executive Director Office of Compliance  
Murray-Darling Basin Authority  
GPO Box 1801  
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Mr James

### **NSW response to the Murray-Darling Basin Compliance Compact Interim Assurance Report**

Thank you for the opportunity to prepare a response to the findings and recommendations contained in the Murray Darling Basin Compliance Compact Interim Assurance Report 2018 that was presented to Ministerial Council on 14 December 2018.

NSW has made significant progress this year on our Water Reform Action Plan, including establishing the Natural Resources Access Regulator (NRAR) to independently oversee compliance with the State's water laws.

We appreciate acknowledgement in the Interim Assurance Report of the significant progress NSW has made in delivering on its commitments so far under the Basin Compliance Compact. In particular, commencement of our new metering framework on 1 December, and the steps taken to address the backlog of allegations of non-compliance in NSW.

With regards to NSW 2.12, a process and procedure document for NRAR officers to follow when working with other agencies is under development and will be published as soon as possible.

NSW has made a number of commitments under the Compact which are due by 1 July 2019 and I am pleased that these forward commitments are being progressed and are on track for delivery.

As you are aware, NSW is responsible for 20 of the 33 water resource plans (WRPs) across the Murray Darling Basin which is supported by 31 water sharing plans and nine long-term watering plans. The work involved in delivering these plans cannot be underestimated and I am pleased with the significant progress made over the last year, including the release of eight draft plans for public exhibition. We will continue working with the Commonwealth and the MDBA to deliver our 20 WRPs across inland NSW.

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The additional time that NSW has sought to complete and submit its WRPs will ensure that meaningful consultation and engagement occurs with the community and stakeholders, including Aboriginal groups and First Nations peoples and that the resulting plans are robust and of high quality.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Rachel Connell', is displayed within a light grey rectangular box.

Rachel Connell  
Executive Director Water  
**Lands & Water**

19 December 2018