

## **Murray Darling Basin Authority and NSW Natural Resource Access Regulator**

### **Joint Work Program 2018-19**

1. This work program is established under the Memorandum of Understanding between the two agencies, signed on 20 February 2018.
2. The activities under this year's work program are listed below. A joint report on the outcomes of the work program will be published by September 2019.

#### **Inter-agency protocol**

3. Building on the protocol at Schedule 1 of the MOU, an enhanced inter-agency protocol will be developed, setting out arrangements for:
  - appropriate sharing and protection of compliance information and intelligence
  - managing allegations of non-compliance, including scope for conducting joint investigations where agreed, and
  - the conduct of audits and reviews, including joint audits where agreed.

#### **Cooperation on the MDBA Review program**

4. The MDBA plans to conduct at least two compliance-related reviews in NSW this financial year. The first of these will be a joint review with NRAR to review the effectiveness of compliance arrangements during the Barwon-Darling environmental flow event of mid 2018.
5. The MDBA will consult NRAR over the subject and scope of the second review, expected to be in southern NSW. This review may be conducted jointly, if agreed, or may simply involve NRAR assisting with access to relevant information consistent with the inter-agency protocol.

#### **Community of Practice**

6. The initial meeting of compliance practitioners under the new national Community of Practice for Compliance Practitioners will be held in Adelaide in November 2018. Both MDBA and NRAR staff will actively participate in planning and attending this forum.

#### **Allegations of non-compliance**

7. NRAR has an active program of managing the backlog of water compliance matters in NSW. MDBA will periodically request confidential briefings from NRAR on the status of this program.
8. MDBA will continue to refer to NRAR any relevant allegations brought to it, consistent with the inter-agency protocol.

#### **Northern Basin Commissioner**

9. Both agencies will cooperate with provision of relevant information and briefings to the newly appointed Northern Basin Commissioner, Mr Mick Keelty.