

**Murray-Darling Basin Authority and NSW Natural Resource Access Regulator  
Joint Work Program 1 July 2019 - 1 July 2021**

This joint work program is established under the Memorandum of Understanding between the Murray-Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) and NSW Natural Resource Access Regulator (NRAR), which was signed on 20 February 2018. It is for the period of 1 July 2019 – 1 July 2021, noting that it may be amended following the review of the Memorandum of Understanding in early 2020.

**Review of the MDBA-NRAR Memorandum of Understanding**

1. The Memorandum of Understanding between the MDBA and the NRAR will be reviewed in early 2020 in line with the process in clause 8 of the Memorandum of Understanding.

**Protocol on the sharing of compliance information**

2. To enhance the *Protocol for handling allegations of non-compliance* at Schedule 1 of the Memorandum of Understanding and the *Collaboration protocol for sharing information and coordinating activities in relation to Basin Plan compliance audits*, the MDBA and the NRAR will agree an inter-agency protocol setting out arrangements for appropriate sharing and use of compliance information, including intelligence such as remote sensing information.
3. Following the development of the protocols, the MDBA and NRAR will each develop internal procedures to support their implementation.

**Allegations of non-compliance**

4. The *Protocol for handling allegations of non-compliance* will be reviewed to align with each agency's current internal processes and procedures.
5. To inform this review, a joint workshop will be held by the MDBA and the NRAR in early 2020.

**Cooperation on agency audit programs**

6. The agencies will liaise as appropriate during the development of their annual audit programs and about audit activities, for example by giving notice about upcoming activities.
7. Audits or reviews may be conducted jointly, or may involve either agency assisting with access to relevant information consistent with the Memorandum of Understanding and the protocol to be developed under paragraph 2.
8. The NRAR will cooperate in the MDBA's audits and reviews as required and appropriate.

**Capacity building**

9. Where possible, the NRAR will invite staff from the MDBA to observe compliance activities to enable skills transfer and capacity development.

**Water metering**

10. The agencies will explore opportunities to enhance collaboration about water meter compliance, noting the MDBA's role to drive best practice, and the NRAR's role to regulate water meter compliance in NSW.

**Water Compliance Community of Practice**

11. The agencies will continue to actively engage in the Water Compliance Community of Practice, including by co-hosting the 2020 Water Compliance Community of Practice annual forum.
12. The agencies will identify an area of water compliance to develop best practice guidelines.

Signatures:



Mr Phillip Glyde  
Chief Executive  
Murray-Darling Basin Authority



Mr Tim Gilbert  
Acting Chief Regulatory Officer  
Natural Resources Access Regulator

20 December 2019