

Report on environmental watering coordination and principles – Australian Capital Territory

The Australian Capital Territory's annual report on implementing the Basin Plan environmental management framework (Schedule 12, Item 10)

Reporting context

The Basin Plan aims to protect and restore water-dependent ecosystems to support a healthy working Basin. To help achieve this, the Plan makes more water available for the environment and also guides how environmental watering is planned, coordinated and used at a Basin scale.

The processes for planning and delivering environmental water including principles to be applied when watering occurs are set out in the environmental management framework set out in Chapter 8 of the Basin Plan. It includes:

- processes to co-ordinate the planning, prioritisation and use of planned environmental water and held environmental water, under which:
 - the Authority is obliged to prepare a Basin-wide environmental watering strategy
 - each Basin State is obliged to prepare long-term watering plans for water resource plan areas
 - each Basin State is obliged to identify annual environmental watering priorities for water resource plan areas
 - the Authority is obliged to identify Basin annual environmental watering priorities (Division 5)
- the principles to be applied in environmental watering
- a mechanism to enable the Authority to co-ordinate the recovery of additional environmental water

The purpose of this report is to monitor how Basin governments are implementing the environmental management framework. The report is a requirement of Chapter 13 of the Basin Plan and relates to Item 10 of Schedule 12.

Indicators for measuring success

Implementation of the environmental management framework is evaluated using the following indicators:

- Basin-wide environmental watering strategy, long-term watering plans and annual priorities were prepared as required (**Indicator 10.1**)
 - Watering strategies, plans and priorities were prepared as required (**Indicator 10.2**)
 - Environmental watering principles were applied (**Indicator 10.3**)
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Indicator 10.1: Basin-wide environmental watering strategy, long-term watering plans and annual priorities were prepared, with the required content, published, reviewed and updated as obligated under Part 4 of Chapter 8, Divisions 2-5

This indicator relates to the CEWH's obligations under Section 8.25(4) only. All other agencies will report against this indicator via their Statements of Assurance

Response

No response required from Authority or Basin States. CEWH report only.

Indicator 10.2: Watering strategies, plans and priorities are prepared consistently with Part 4 of Chapter 8, in relation to coordinating, consulting and cooperating with other Reports and the matters to which regard must be had (Chapter 8, Part 4)

Response

This indicator is not relevant to the ACT.

Indicator 10.3: Environmental watering principles are applied as set out in Division 6 of Chapter 8, Part 4

Response

This indicator is not relevant to the ACT.
