

Information collection template for water year 2015-16

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The South Australian 2015–16 annual report to satisfy reporting obligations for:

- Basin Plan Schedule 12 responses
- National Partnerships Agreement assurance of milestone achievement
- Basin Plan Implementation Agreement self-assessment of compliance with implementation tasks

Reporting context

This template provides for one Commonwealth information collection point, which can be used multiple times to meet Basin State reporting obligations in relation to the Murray-Darling Basin Plan.

Our aim is to reduce duplication, improve transparency and increase efficiency of reporting. The template has been tailored to address information requirements for the 2015-16 reporting year and will be updated for each subsequent reporting period.

At this point in time, the information collection template is designed to satisfy reporting obligations for Basin Plan Schedule 12, Basin Plan Implementation Agreement (BPIA) compliance requirements and the milestone assessments of the National Partnership Agreement (NPA) on Implementing Water Reform in the Murray-Darling Basin. Reporting for Schedule 12 Matter 9 (the identification and use of environmental water) is reported elsewhere. Matter 9, indicators 9.1 and 9.2, are reported through

existing Water Act s71 and s32 reporting requirements and Matter 9, indicator 9.3, is reported through the *Matter 9.3 reporting template*.

The Department of Agriculture and Water Resources will use the information provided in this template as well as multiple other sources to meet NPA reporting requirements. For example, reporting against NPA milestones 6c and 8a is not specifically required as information will be gathered from within the Department, the MDBA and the Commonwealth Environmental Water Office.

A. Local Knowledge and Stakeholder Engagement

Reporting Matter	Supporting evidence to be provided by Basin States	Response (response/milestone achievement/compliance status)
<i>The extent to which local knowledge and solutions inform the implementation of the Basin Plan</i>		
<p>A1 The outcome of engagement on the implementation of the Basin Plan</p> <p><i>Applicable to Schedule 12, Matter 6, Indicator 6.1 and NPA 8e</i></p>	<p>Descriptive statement. Where possible include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How local knowledge and solutions were used by the reporter • How involving communities made a difference to Basin Plan implementation • How decisions changed as a result of community involvement • How environmental watering in regulated catchments has occurred having regard to the views of local communities and persons materially affected by the management of environmental water • Local knowledge might include knowledge drawn from Traditional Owners and other Aboriginal people and groups • When reporting on Aboriginal participation and influence, processes of involvement may be as important as outcomes. <p>In 2015/16 reporting, we would expect use of local knowledge to feature in development of Water Resource Plans and the management of environmental water.</p> <p>Examples or case studies are not mandatory, but may be a useful way to describe how local knowledge and solutions inform implementation of the Basin Plan.</p>	<p>The South Australia Government uses engagement to influence Basin Plan implementation in a range of areas including annual environmental watering, development of long-term environmental watering plans, major projects and water resource planning. For 2015-16 reporting, South Australia has provided examples of engagement to inform water resource planning and environmental watering.</p> <p>Local knowledge and solutions are used to inform the development of water resource plans in South Australia through well-established community engagement processes linked to water allocation and natural resource management planning.</p> <p><i>Case Study – Aboriginal Engagement in Water Resource Planning</i></p> <p>In April 2016, twenty six people representing nine nations from South Australia, Victoria and New South Wales attended an Aboriginal Nations Water Workshop held as part of the process of ensuring effective participation of South Australian Aboriginal Nations in water resource planning. There were also representatives from the Basin Community Committee, Native Title Services Corporation (NSW) and the Murray Lower Darling River Indigenous Nations (MLDRIN).</p> <p>The workshop provided the opportunity to come together and share ideas and information on water management and use. It also provided nations with the opportunity to discuss how to improve engagement for delivering on Basin Plan requirements and specifically improving Aboriginal engagement for developing the state’s water resource plans.</p> <p>Nations attending the workshop sought to focus on a one-river (holistic) approach to addressing Basin Plan requirements. The workshop identified that the Nations are seeking support to build their capacity to engage in water planning and management. Attendees highlighted that they want planning to be done in a culturally appropriate way, led by Nations and recognising their traditional boundaries and the cultural framework that connects Nations along the river.</p> <p>As result of the workshop, the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR) has embarked on the development of a river country-based plan to guide future Aboriginal engagement activities relevant to water resource management and broader NRM and land management activities. The plan will contribute to the establishment of partnerships that encourage the active and informed participation of Aboriginal people in regional natural resource management planning, including water management and water allocation planning.</p> <p>After the workshop a short video was produced as a way of engaging with other Aboriginal groups that were unable to attend the workshop https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8LOE_s7MZ08</p>

Reporting Matter	Supporting evidence to be provided by Basin States	Response (response/milestone achievement/compliance status)
		<p>As detailed in section B4, there was extensive consultation regarding environmental watering. This included using the local knowledge of Local Action Planning Committees to identify wetlands in need of environmental water; consulting with traditional owners (indigenous groups) regarding their priority sites for environmental water; developing watering proposals that considered the interests of stakeholder groups and using scientific and community advisory groups to provide advice and adaptively manage environmental water delivery as flow conditions changed during the year.</p>
<p>A2 Processes used to identify stakeholders and other relevant groups and individuals from local communities and peak bodies</p> <p><i>Applicable to Schedule 12, Matter 6, Indicator 6.2 and NPA 8e</i></p>	<p>Descriptive statement. Where possible include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Process used to identify stakeholders and other relevant groups and individuals 	<p>DEWNR identifies stakeholders and other relevant groups and individuals from local communities and peak bodies using the guidelines outlined in the DEWNR Community Engagement Resource Handbook. The handbook is based on the South Australian Department of the Premier and Cabinet's (DPC) guide, Better Together: Principles of Engagement and the values of the International Association of Public Participation (IAP2).</p> <p>Key areas for community involvement include water resource planning, environmental water management and major projects. Engaging the community is generally undertaken in collaboration with or through the relevant Natural Resource Management boards.</p> <p>A successful example of effective stakeholder identification is detailed in section B3 which describes the stakeholder engagement for the development of South Australia's long-term watering plan. The stakeholder groups engaged covered the spectrum of affected communities and interested stakeholders. Participants included the South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board; the River Murray Advisory Committee; Local Action Planning groups through the Community Action for the Rural Environment committee; the Community Advisory Panel and Scientific Advisory Group for the Coorong, Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth; the Nature Foundation SA; the Ngarrindjeri Regional Authority, including the Mannum Aboriginal Community Association Incorporated; and the First Peoples of the River Murray and Mallee Region.</p>
<p>A3 How stakeholders and other relevant groups and individuals were engaged</p> <p>The outcome of engagement on the implementation of the Basin Plan</p> <p><i>Applicable to Schedule 12, Matter 6, Indicator 6.3 and NPA 8e</i></p>	<p>Descriptive statement. Where possible include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Range of audiences engaged • Range of opportunities (types of engagement) <p>Relate these to the Basin Plan obligations to have regard to local views (Chapter 8 and 10)</p>	<p>South Australia engages a range of stakeholders in relevant Basin Plan activities using a range of approaches dependent on the activity and audience.</p> <p>In 2015-16 DEWNR developed a River Murray Engagement Plan which formalises communication around Basin Plan implementation and programs associated with Basin Plan outcomes (e.g. irrigation efficiency projects, environmental projects).</p> <p>DEWNR engagement occurs through both online and offline formats, designed to meet specific engagement requirements.</p> <p>The use of short video communications has been introduced to help convey messages and concepts in simple and engaging ways, including using the words of participants (e.g. the Nations Workshop discussed in A1). A further example of this is the short video produced featuring DEWNR's Deputy Chief Executive (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wv8fKASwUNY)</p> <p>During the consultation for both South Australia's long-term watering plan and annual watering priorities (see B3), a number of different methods were used including the Your SAy page of the DEWNR website, directly advising stakeholders by email, providing presentations at regular stakeholder group meetings, provision of electronic factsheets which could be printed for further</p>

Reporting Matter	Supporting evidence to be provided by Basin States	Response (response/milestone achievement/compliance status)
		<p>distribution as well as providing contact email and phone numbers for personal feedback.</p> <p>It has been identified that face-to-face workshops will be an integral part of the collaboration with Aboriginal nations as the River Country Plan is developed as part of Water Resource Planning (as outlined in A1).</p> <p>Other examples of valuable offline engagement with stakeholders include gathering regular on-ground observations and conducting tours of environmental watering assets. Regular site tours of the Chowilla regulator for groups of around 40 community members are conducted in conjunction with the Renmark to Border Local Action Planning Association.</p>

B. Environmental Watering

Reporting Matter	Supporting evidence to be provided by Basin States	Response (milestone achievement/compliance status)
<i>The implementation of the environmental management framework (Part 4 of Chapter 8)</i>		
<p>B1 Long-term watering plans were prepared, with the required content, published, reviewed and updated as obligated under Part 4 of Chapter 8, Divisions 3.</p> <p><i>Applicable to Schedule 12, Matter 10, Indicator 10.1; NPA 8f and BPIA 18.1</i></p>	<p>Each Basin State will prepare long-term watering plans aligning with the Plan's surface water resource plan areas.</p> <p>The level of detail in a long-term watering plan will vary according to local conditions, levels of development and regulation, the influence on other water resources, and statutory and other arrangements prevailing in the surface water resource plan area.</p> <p>A long-term watering plan may provide that an existing or other specified instrument or text comprises or is part of a Basin State's plan.</p> <p>The plans will be developed by dates agreed between the MDBA and each Basin State.</p> <p>The MDBA and each Basin State will separately agree on what further material would be required for each of the State's long-term watering plans. As part of this, the MDBA and each Basin State will also agree on the standards required for this material.</p>	<p>The long-term watering plan was completed for the South Australian River Murray water resource plan area by the November 2015 due date, consistent with the requirements of Chapter 8. It has been endorsed by the South Australian Minister for Water and the River Murray and is publicly available on the DEWNR website:</p> <p>http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/managing-natural-resources/river-murray/restoring-river-health/environmental-water/environmental-water-planning</p> <p>Development of long-term watering plans for the Eastern Mount Lofty Ranges and Murray region water resource plan areas commenced in 2015-16 and are also being prepared consistent with the requirements of Chapter 8.</p>

<p>B2 Annual priorities were prepared, with the required content, published, reviewed and updated as obligated under Part 4 of Chapter 8, Divisions 4</p> <p><i>Applicable to Schedule 12, Matter 10, Indicator 10.1; NPA 8c and BPIA 19.1</i></p>	<p>The level of detail for annual environmental watering priorities will vary according to local conditions, levels of development and regulation, influence on other water resources and statutory and other arrangements in the water resource plan area.</p> <p>The principle of fit for purpose management will inform the development and assessment of annual environmental watering priorities by Basin States and the MDBA respectively.</p> <p>Basin States will submit their annual environmental watering priorities (AEWP) or other relevant instrument as agreed with the MDBA, for the purposes of identifying the Basin annual environmental watering priorities for the water resource plan areas.</p>	<p>Annual watering priorities for each of the three South Australian Murray-Darling Basin water resource plan areas have been completed consistent with the requirements of Chapter 8 and by the 31 May due date. The priorities are publicly available on the DEWNR website.</p> <p>http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/managing-natural-resources/river-murray/restoring-river-health/environmental-water/environmental-water-planning</p>
<p>B3 Watering strategies, plans and priorities are prepared consistently with Part 4 of Chapter 8, in relation to coordinating, consulting and cooperating with other Reporters and the matters to which regard must be had (Chapter 8, Part 4)</p> <p><i>Applicable to Schedule 12, Matter 10, Indicator 10.2; NPA 8c, 8d and 8f and BPIA 20.1</i></p>	<p>a. Describe how coordination, consultation and cooperation occurred including with other governments in preparing watering strategies, plans and priorities, as obligated in Part 4 of Chapter 8, as well as the matters to which regard must be had</p> <p>b. Describe how coordination, consultation and cooperation made a difference</p>	<p>(a) The annual watering plan and priorities were developed in close cooperation with Local Action Planning Committees, government stakeholders, environmental water holders, environmental asset managers and key community and scientific groups.</p> <p>Annual watering proposals were prioritised using criteria regarding benefit, cost, risk and quantity of water. Stakeholder groups either attended workshops or were provided with an overview of the process and invited to provide input at each step via the provision of factsheets and presentations at their regular meetings. Emails and phone calls were addressed and new proposals considered for inclusion in the priorities.</p> <p>The priorities were provided to the environmental water holders for planning discussions about cooperative watering with upstream sites. The MDBA coordinated a multi-site strategy for The Living Murray water. The Commonwealth Environmental Water Office developed a delivery options plan and watering schedules for its water. South Australia participated in cross-jurisdictional planning groups and advisory committees to help plan and deliver environmental water.</p> <p>The South Australian River Murray long-term watering plan was developed in accordance with the preparation requirements described in Section 8.20 of the Basin Plan. These requirements include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • consultation requirements • having regard to the Murray-Darling Basin Authority's Basin-wide environmental watering strategy • consistency with the 11 principles to be applied in environmental watering • to not be inconsistent with relevant international agreements. <p>The long-term watering plan was prepared by staff within DEWNR with input from the South Australian scientific community, Indigenous representative bodies (Ngarrindjeri Regional Authority and First Peoples of the River Murray and Mallee Region) and regional environmental water practitioners.</p> <p>During preparation of the long-term watering plan, DEWNR liaised with the MDBA and upstream jurisdictions through the Environmental Watering Working Group.</p> <p>In addition, key regional stakeholder groups that have an existing involvement with</p>

		<p>environmental water management projects were engaged, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • River Murray Advisory Committee • Nature Foundation South Australia • Coorong, Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth Community Advisory Panel • Local Action Planning Associations • Scientific Advisory Group for the Lower Lakes, Coorong and Murray Mouth. <p>A fact sheet titled 'Introducing long-term environmental watering plans for the Murray Darling Basin within South Australia' was produced by DEWNR and circulated to the Indigenous representative bodies and key stakeholder groups in January 2015. The intent of the factsheet was to inform these groups of the legislative requirement to develop long-term plans, broadly explain their purpose, required content and timeframes for development, and gauge the level of interest in these plans. Together with the distribution of the factsheet, presentations at regular meetings of key groups were undertaken.</p> <p>Four technical reports formed the basis of the ecological content of the long-term watering plan and were the primary mechanism of scientific input from regional experts.</p> <p>Once compiled, the draft long-term watering plan was released for review by parties external to DEWNR between the 3rd and 30th September 2015. This process included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • making the draft long-term watering plan publicly available via the YourSAy page of the DEWNR website, with submissions accepted via email • directly advising the Indigenous representative bodies and key regional stakeholder groups of the release of the draft long-term watering plan via email and where possible giving presentations at group meetings • liaising with the MDBA (including staff involved in Basin Plan Implementation, The Living Murray Program and River Operations), the Commonwealth Environmental Water Office and upstream jurisdictions regarding the release of the draft long-term watering plan, inviting them to submit feedback and discussing preliminary comments during the consultation period. <p>All feedback submissions were considered in finalising the long-term watering plan. DEWNR appreciates the time taken by organisations and individuals in reading and providing feedback on the South Australian River Murray long-term watering plan.</p> <p>(b) Coordination at the State and Basin level has allowed the outcomes of environmental watering to be maximised. For example, coordinated planning to allow return flows from upstream watering to be re-used at downstream sites. Consultation enabled the identification of important sites and watering priorities for key stakeholders and also the gathering of on-ground observations. Cooperation with other states resulted in greater coordination and the ability to consider relevant environmental needs throughout the River Murray system.</p>
<p>B4 How Environmental watering principles were applied consistent with Chapter 8, Part 4, Division 6.</p> <p><i>Applicable to Schedule 12, Matter 10, Indicator 10.3; NPA 8b and 8d</i></p>	<p>a. Provide at least one case study that demonstrates how environmental watering principles were applied and identify the relevant principles.</p> <p>b. Provide reasons for any environmental watering that was not in accordance with annual watering priorities (please provide answer in the <i>statement of reasons</i> table at bottom of this document).</p>	<p>In 2015-16, South Australia managed the delivery of planned and held environmental water consistent with the Basin Plan. This included developing and submitting the annual environmental watering priorities by 31 May 2016, and applying the principles set out at Division 6 of Chapter 8 of the Basin Plan in undertaking environmental watering in accordance with the Basin annual environmental watering priorities.</p> <p>Case studies of how environmental watering principles were applied in managing environmental water are outlined below.</p>

<p>and BPIA 20.2</p>	<p>c. Where feasible and agreed by the relevant basin state, confirmation that measures have been implemented to facilitate the use of environmental water through water shepherding and return flow provisions.</p>	<p>Principle 3: Maximising environmental benefits</p> <p>South Australia worked cooperatively with the upstream states, the MDBA and the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder to enable multi-site environmental water delivery by participating in the development and implementation of a multi-site environmental watering strategy.</p> <p>During 2015-16, South Australia received and managed environmental water to maximise multiple benefits by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • using the local knowledge of Local Action Planning Committees to identify wetlands in need of environmental water; • consulting with traditional owners (indigenous groups) regarding their priority sites for environmental water; • developing watering proposals that considered the interests of stakeholder groups; • undertaking assessments of the benefits of an environmental watering event relative to the costs, risks, quantity of water and relative ecological benefit; • using scientific and community advisory groups to provide advice and adaptively manage environmental water delivery as flow conditions changed during the year; • seeking environmental water in spring/summer to mimic the natural timing for higher flows; and • re-using the return flow from upstream events for ecological outcomes in the channel and Coorong, Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth (CLLMM). <p>Principle 7: Working effectively with local communities</p> <p>The South Australian Government undertook regular consultation with local communities on proposed environmental water planning and delivery through stakeholder groups with interests in environmental watering and with landholders who may be affected by watering actions. This included consultation for both annual and long term planning as described in response to B3. Some examples of stakeholder groups involved include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board; • the River Murray Advisory Committee; • Local Action Planning groups through the Community Action for the Rural Environment committee; • the Community Advisory Panel and Scientific Advisory Group for the Coorong, Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth; • the Nature Foundation SA; • the Ngarrindjeri Regional Authority, including the Mannum Aboriginal Community Association Incorporated; and • the First Peoples of the River Murray and Mallee Region. <p>Principle 8: Adaptive management</p> <p>Environmental water planning and delivery for 2015-16 considered different management options under a range of different flow scenarios. A real time advisory committee provided weekly advice during the delivery of environmental water so that its use could be adaptively managed if conditions changed.</p>
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		<p>An example of adaptive management can be illustrated by the Chowilla Operations Group. A network of surface water monitoring stations are used during watering events to provide real time monitoring data. During the 2014-15 event the network detected Dissolved Oxygen (DO) levels dropping below trigger levels and an incident response was activated. The monitoring was reviewed and changes in infrastructure settings were put into place to increase flows down Woolshed Creek. This incident information was then used to inform the planning of the 2015-16 watering event to reduce the likelihood of creating low DO conditions.</p> <p>South Australian Government officials also participated in a range of groups and committees involved in informing decision making about the real time management of environmental water in response to changing climatic and river conditions. These included the Operations Advisory Group and Barrage Operations Advisory Group, the MDBA Southern Connected Basin Environmental Water Committee, the Water Liaison Working Group, the Environmental Water Working Group and The Living Murray Committee.</p> <p>Principle 10: Other management and operational practices</p> <p>During 2015-16 South Australia continued with a range of infrastructure upgrades (such as those at Lake Merreti and Woolpolool) to enhance natural flow paths and improve the environmental outcomes possible from managed river operations. These structures allow a greater range of outcomes to be achieved on small sections of the floodplain with less water. Weir pool raising events were again undertaken.</p>
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C. Water Quality and Salinity Management

Reporting Matter	Supporting evidence to be provided by Basin States	Response (milestone achievement/compliance status)
Implementation of the water quality and salinity management plan, including the extent to which regard is had to the targets in Chapter 9 when making flow management decisions.		
<p>C1 Regard had to the targets in s9.14 when managing water flows</p> <p><i>Applicable to Schedule 12, Matter 14, Indicator 14.1 and BPIA 21.1</i></p>	<p>Summary of how the Authority and Basin States 'had regard' to water quality targets when managing water flows. Statement that procedures and tools were in place, and how these were used in the reporting year. Reporters to provide a case study where possible.</p>	<p>Flow management decisions are made on a daily basis by DEWNR River Murray Operations Group consistent with the objectives of the South Australian River Murray Annual Operating Plan and the Annual Environmental Watering Plan. Decisions are made using a range of hydrological data, modelling and other information gathered regularly.</p> <p>Oversight of decisions is provided by a defined governance structure. A multi-agency River Murray Operations Working Group meets monthly to review status and provide guidance to the River Murray Operations Group on issues that arise throughout the year. Any proposed actions that may have an impact on salinity and water quality are considered by the multi-agency group and any actions that are likely to have negative impacts are elevated to the Director, River Murray Operations for consideration. If a decision cannot be resolved the action is elevated to DEWNR senior officials through the Murray-Darling Basin Coordinating Committee (MDBCC).</p> <p>Regular monthly reporting on River Murray operations and flow and water quality outcomes is provided to the MDBCC. All plans (including the South Australian River Murray Annual Operating Plan and the Annual Environmental Watering Plan) and significant policy and operational decisions relating to the River Murray that may have an impact on water quality standards are assessed and approved by MDBCC before implementation.</p> <p>River Murray operations outside of the defined South Australian River Murray Annual Operating Plan and the Annual Environmental Watering Plan are managed through River Murray Action Request Forms. River Murray Action Request Forms require the proponent to identify the potential impacts of flow management decisions as they relate to water quality for actions that arise throughout the year.</p> <p>In 2015-16, forty River Murray Action Request Forms relating to flow management and wetland management were received for consideration and assessed for impacts on River Murray water quality or other users. Where potential implications for water quality are identified proponents are required to identify potential mitigation strategies and monitor outcomes.</p> <p>The following plans, guidelines and tools were used to ensure that regard is had to the targets in s9.14 when managing water flows in South Australia:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - South Australian River Murray Annual Operating Plan - Annual Environmental Watering Plan - Water/Wastewater Incident Notification and Communication Protocol - Salt Disposal Plans - Wetland Management Plans - River Murray Action Request Forms - Guidelines for Having Regard to Targets for Managing Water Flows

		<p>- Modelling</p> <p>Salinity outcomes in South Australia are also dependent on river operation decisions made by the Murray-Darling Basin Authority (MDBA).</p> <p><u>Case Study</u></p> <p>During 2015-16 a River Murray Action Request form was submitted proposing to dispose of saline groundwater from well development as part of the South Australian Riverland Floodplains Integrated Infrastructure Program (SARFIIP). The action request outlined disposing of saline ground water (up to a total volume of 300 kL) generated during the drilling and installation of groundwater monitoring wells under the SARFIIP Salinity Management Measures program.</p> <p>The proposal estimated that the salinity increase to the main channel as a result of the disposal would be less than 1 EC, under a number of assumptions. It noted that at the current time salinity levels in the River Murray at Lock 6 and Morgan were near 200 EC which was well below the Basin Plan target of 800 EC at Morgan. It also estimated that the current flows in the river were sufficient to dilute the saline groundwater.</p> <p>The River Murray Operations Working Group considered the proposal but held concerns about the impacts the action may have on the environment of the Pike River. The request was received and approved subject to a number of conditions to manage the risk: monitoring requirements and regular provision of monitoring data to River Murray Operations Working Group members; water users within the impact area being informed prior to commencement and on completion of the trial and advice being sought from the MDBA regarding the need for a clause 49 approval under the Murray-Darling Basin Agreement.</p>
<p>C2 Regard had to the targets in s9.14 when making decisions about the use of environmental water</p> <p><i>Applicable to Schedule 12, Matter 14, Indicator 14.2 and BPIA 21.1</i></p>	<p>Summary of how the Authority, CEWH and the Basin States 'had regard' when making decisions about the use of environmental water. Statement that procedures and tools were in place, and how these were used in the reporting year. Reporters to provide a case study where possible.</p>	<p>To ensure that regard is had to the targets for managing water flow when planning and delivering environmental water, South Australia uses an adapted 'The Living Murray' (TLM) template that considers the risks with not watering and watering wetlands. The template assists working groups in their decision making processes relating to development, planning and use of environmental water to make an assessment against the targets listed under s 9.14.</p> <p>Environmental water managers are also involved in the River Murray Operations Working Group which meets monthly to review status and provide guidance to the DEWNR River Murray Operations Group on issues that arise throughout the year. Decisions to use environmental water are dependent on the real-time river conditions at the time, the likely risks and available contingency measures.</p> <p>During watering events, specific monitoring of water quality occurs in real-time at the major wetland sites. Smaller sites are monitored through the in-stream monitoring network.</p> <p>South Australia also participates in the MDBA operations-led advisory group for environmental watering and the information provided about water quality from that group is also used in real-time operational decisions.</p> <p>Environmental watering actions that arose throughout the year outside of the agreed SA River Murray Annual Operating Plan and the planned Annual Environmental Watering priorities were assessed and recorded using a River Murray Action Request Form. In 2015-16, 37 requests relating to wetland management were submitted.</p> <p>The following plans and tools were used to ensure that regard is had to the targets in s9.14 when making decisions about the use of environmental water in South Australia:</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - South Australian River Murray Annual Operating Plan - Annual Environmental Watering Plan - Water/Wastewater Incident Notification and Communication Protocol - Short Term Barrage Operating Plan - Wetland Management Plans - River Murray Action Request Forms - Guidelines for Having Regard to Targets for Managing Water Flows - Modelling and Decision Templates <p><u>Case Study</u></p> <p>The Chowilla floodplain is one of the six icon sites under The Living Murray (TLM) program. A shallow highly saline aquifer underlies the floodplain and is a recognised source of saline groundwater discharge into the River Murray.</p> <p>The Chowilla regulator allows managed inundation of the floodplain and provides environmental benefit through reduced soil salinity and improved vegetation health. Conversely, inundation may also result in discharge of salt into the Chowilla Creek and ultimately to the River Murray.</p> <p>There has been significant work undertaken to assess both long term and short term salinity impacts associated with operation of the regulator structures. Salinity assessments have informed the development of an operating strategy for the regulator which includes actions to mitigate salinity risks associated with operation.</p> <p>Testing of the regulator in 2014 and 2015 has provided an opportunity to commence validation of the modelled salinity impacts and assess risk mitigation measures. The testing in 2014 resulted in a floodplain inundation of approximately 2,300 hectares of wetlands and floodplains while the lower level event in 2015 raised water levels within channel-rise by about 1.5 metres generating benefits for vegetation along the riparian zones within the anabranch.</p> <p>Operation of the Chowilla Creek Regulator and ancillary structures was managed in accordance with the governance arrangements specified in the operating plan. A Chowilla Operations Group was convened to oversee each event and was responsible for the day-to-day real-time management.</p> <p>Real time management was supported by a number of risk assessments conducted prior to the event. An extensive network of telemetered monitoring stations was also established. Dissolved oxygen, temperature and salinity at the top and bottom of the water column are monitored at three sites within the anabranch, two sites on the floodplain and two sites in the River Murray (upstream of Chowilla and downstream of the Chowilla Creek).</p> <p>During, and on recession of the 2014 floodplain inundation testing event the surface water monitoring network indicated a slight increase in salinity (20 EC) in the River Murray. This increase is similar to the typical background increase in salinity downstream of Chowilla Creek in the Murray River. In addition the salinity levels recorded during and following the testing were relatively low in comparison to averages recorded over previous 12 months.</p> <p>The information collected from monitoring stations was analysed and considered by the Chowilla Operations Group during regular meetings to ensure that water quality was maintained within acceptable limits and to ensure that water quality downstream was not compromised.</p>
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		Work is now underway to compare the salt load observations during the 2014 and 2015 events with model results for similar scenarios. Preliminary results indicate strong correlation between the modelled and observed results for both these events.
Application of salinity targets for the purposes of long-term salinity planning and management (Refers compliance status with section s9.19 of the Basin Plan).		
<p>C3 Apply salinity targets in the Murray–Darling Basin Agreement for salinity planning and management.</p> <p><i>Applicable to Schedule 12, Matter 14 and BPIA 23.1</i></p>	<p>The MDBA, the BOC, and Basin States are to undertake any long-term salinity planning and management functions in accordance with the targets in Appendix 1 of Schedule B of the Murray-Darling Basin Agreement (including the Basin Salinity Management Strategy Operational Protocols).</p>	<p>South Australia will address this reporting requirement through the provision of Basin Salinity Management 2030 reporting under Schedule B of the Murray-Darling Basin Agreement.</p>
Water quality and salinity trigger points		
<p>C4 Determine whether the trigger is reached.</p> <p><i>Applicable to BPIA 26.1</i></p>	<p>The Guideline for the triggers and processes for changing water sharing Tiers provides guidance on how the MDBA and Basin States should communicate if the triggers are reached.</p>	<p>No triggers were reached in water year 2015-16.</p>

D. Water Trading

Reporting Matter	Supporting evidence to be provided by Basin States	Response (milestone achievement/compliance status)
The implementation of water trading rules.		
<p>D1 Compliance with the Basin Plan water trading rules</p> <p><i>Applicable to Schedule 12, Matter 16, Indicator 16.1 and BPIA 29.1-31.1</i></p>	<p>Website links to the publication of information regarding an Approval Authority's interest in a trade (s12.38(2)).</p> <p>Documentation to support compliance with s12.37 to s12.39 (notice of disclosure and reasons for restricting trade).</p> <p>Documentation that supports a compliance with s12.50 (water announcements to be made generally available).</p>	<p>South Australia is compliant with the requirements of sections 12.37, 12.38, 12.39 and 12.50.</p> <p>s 12.37 and 12.38 Notice and disclosure of an interest in a trade</p> <p>The trade and approval functions in South Australia have been administratively separated. The Approval Authority, the Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation (MSEC) has no relevant interest in trade. Delegates of the Minister are officers in DEWNR and they are not permitted to approve a trade if they have an interest in that trade.</p> <p>Trade by or on behalf of other South Australian Ministers and trades undertaken by the Minister for Water and the River Murray are publicly disclosed on Water Connect: https://www.waterconnect.sa.gov.au/Systems/WTR/Pages/Default.aspx</p> <p>s 12.39 Notice of reasons for restricting trade</p> <p>DEWNR gives notice to each party involved in a trade when it decides to restrict the trade of a water access right. The notice of disclosure to each party includes detail on the decision to restrict the trade and the reasons for the decisions.</p> <p>The reasons for refusing a trade comply with both the Basin Plan water trading rules and the state water allocation plans and include, among other things, that inter-valley trade limits have been reached; a mistake on the application form; or not enough water available on a holders account.</p> <p>s 12.50 Water Announcements to be made generally available</p> <p>The Department of Environment Water and Natural Resources made a number of water announcements during 2015-16 and all were made generally available. All announcements are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • released as a Media Release to radio, television, print, electronic and social media; • uploaded on the Minister's and the Department of Environment Water and Natural Resources websites: www.environment.sa.gov.au; and • reported in the weekly "River Murray Flow Report" which is emailed to approximately 1000 recipients. <p>The final 2016-17 water allocation announcement and the final revised SA River Murray Private Carryover Policy announcement were also published in the SA Government Gazette of 30 June 2016. http://www.governmentgazette.sa.gov.au/</p> <p>Copies of announcements can be found on the Department of Environment Water and Natural Resources website: http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/managing-natural-resources/river-murray/water-allocation-and-trade/water-allocations-and-announcements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 30 June 2016 "Opening allocations of 36 percent for SA River Murray irrigators";

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 28 April 2016 “Minimum allocations reflect very dry conditions and inflows” (including a private carryover announcement); ○ 08 April 2016 “Update for River Murray water users to inform planning for next water year” (including a private carryover announcement); and ○ recent editions of the “River Murray Flow Report”. <p>The South Australian River Murray Private Carryover Policy is available on the Department of Environment Water and Natural Resources website: http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/managing-natural-resources/river-murray/water-allocation-and-trade/private-carryover</p>
<p>D2 Trade processing times</p> <p><i>Applicable to Schedule 12, Matter 16, Indicator 16.2; NPA 6d and BPIA 29.1-31.1</i></p>	<p>Report on interstate and intrastate trade processing times (as per the COAG service and reporting standards for trade processing times).</p> <p>Confirmation that applications for entitlement and allocation trades to which the Commonwealth was a party were processed consistent with the agreed service standards.</p>	<p>South Australia is compliant with the Council of Australian Government (COAG) service and reporting standards for trade processing times. Trading information for the South Australian River Murray is updated on or before the 7th day of every month and published on Water Connect https://www.waterconnect.sa.gov.au/Systems/WTR/Pages/Default.aspx</p> <p>South Australia can confirm that applications for entitlement and allocation trades to which the Commonwealth was a party were also processed consistent with the agreed service standards.</p>
<p>Restrictions on trade and their application (Refers compliance status with sections s12.02-12.27 of the Basin Plan).</p>		
<p>D3 Ensure trades are consistent with the water trading rules</p> <p><i>Applicable to Schedule 12, Matter 16; NPA 6a, 6b and 6e and BPIA 29.1</i></p>	<p>Basin States will review and exercise their best endeavours to ensure that any necessary amendments are made to their water trading rules to ensure they are consistent with the Plan water trading rules by 1 July 2014 or in accordance with the expiry of transitional or interim water resource plans.</p> <p>In addition, surface water trade within a regulated system, between regulated systems or within an unregulated system must be free of any restriction on changing the location at which water can be taken, and not be subject to any volumetric limit, except for defined allowable restrictions.</p> <p>The Basin States are required to notify the MDBA of all restrictions on the trade of surface water and the reasons for the decision within 30 days of commencement of the rules or no later than the date of effect of the restriction.</p> <p>The Basin States are also required to report any surface water entitlements which are not consistent with clauses 28 to 32 of the NWI.</p>	<p>South Australia’s water trading activity is consistent with the Basin Plan water trading rules.</p> <p>South Australia’s water trading rules are provided in water allocation plans and these have been reviewed for consistency with the Basin Plan water trading rules.</p> <p>South Australia can confirm that surface water trade within a regulated system, between regulated systems or within an unregulated system is free of any restriction on changing the location at which water can be taken, and is not be subject to any volumetric limit, except for defined allowable restrictions.</p> <p>Surface water entitlements in South Australia are consistent with clauses 28 to 32 of the NWI.</p>

Approval processes for trade of water access rights		
<p>D4 Disclose interests, give reasons if restricting trade, provide notice, and publish on website.</p> <p><i>Applicable to Schedule 12, Matter 16, Indicator 16.1 and BPIA 30.1</i></p>	<p>An approval authority must disclose to each party to a proposed trade any legal or commercial interest it, or a related party, has in the water access right to be traded and any commercial interest it has in the activities of any water market intermediary involved in the trade before the trade occurs, as soon as practicable.</p> <p>If an approval authority has approved a trade which it was a party, it must publish that fact including details of the type of water access right. If an approval authority rejects a proposed trade, it must notify the relevant parties in writing of its reasons.</p> <p>An approval authority who has restricted a trade of a water access right for any reason must give notice of the decision and the reasons for the decision as soon as is practicable but in any case within 30 days after the decision to restrict the trade.</p>	<p>South Australia is compliant with the requirements of D4.</p> <p>The Approval Authority arrangements in South Australia are such that the Approval Authority has no relevant interest in trade. For more detail please refer to our response to D1 above “s 12.37 and 12.38 Notice and disclosure of an interest in a trade”.</p> <p>Where the South Australia Approval Authority restricts a trade of a water access right for any reason, notice of the decision and the reasons for the decision are given to both parties to the trade as soon as practicable but in any case within 30 days after the decision. For more detail please refer to section D1 above “s 12.39 Notice of reasons for restricting trade”.</p>
Information and reporting requirements		
<p>D5 Provide information on water access rights and water trade rules.</p> <p><i>Applicable to Schedule 12, Matter 16 and BPIA 31.1</i></p>	<p>A Basin State will provide the MDBA with certain information about water access rights conferred under Basin State law. If the information is changed, the Basin State will give the changed information to the MDBA as soon as is practicable, but in any case, no later than the date of effect of the change.</p> <p>A Basin State will provide a copy of the rules regulating the trade of tradeable water rights to the MDBA. If the rules include material by way of a reference to another document the Basin State must explain how the referenced document relates to the rules and the referenced document must be published online.</p>	<p>South Australia is compliant with the information and reporting requirements of D5.</p> <p>South Australia provided the MDBA with all required information about water access rights conferred under South Australian law in 2014-15. The only relevant change to this information in 2015-16 was the announcement of a revised South Australia River Murray Private Carryover Policy. The MDBA was aware of this before the date of effect of the change and this was acknowledged through formal correspondence.</p> <p>South Australia’s water trading rules can be found on the Department of Environment Water and Natural Resources website: http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/managing-natural-resources/river-murray/water-allocation-and-trade/water-trading-rules.</p> <p>South Australia River Murray Private Carryover Policy can be found on the Department of Environment Water and Natural Resources website: http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/managing-natural-resources/river-murray/water-allocation-and-trade/private-carryover</p>
<p>D6 Report trade prices</p> <p><i>Applicable to Schedule 12, Matter 16 and BPIA 31.2</i></p>	<p>If a trade requires approval by an approval authority, or requires registration, the seller must notify the approval authority, or the registration authority, of the price in writing. Note the definition of ‘seller’ of water access rights can include the Basin States, the MDBA or the CEWH.</p>	<p>South Australia is compliant with the trade price reporting requirements. The Approval Authority, which is the Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation (MSEC) and his delegates in the Department of Environment Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR) require the seller of a water access right to report the price of the trade. These prices are publicly disclosed on Water Connect, minus any information that may identify the parties: https://www.waterconnect.sa.gov.au/Systems/WTR/Pages/Default.aspx</p>

<p>D7 Make water announcements generally available</p> <p><i>Applicable to Schedule 12, Matter 16 and BPIA 31.3</i></p>	<p>Water announcements must be published in a way that makes them likely to be brought to the attention of interested members of the public.</p> <p>Basin States will implement a process to ensure that a person, who is aware of a water announcement before it is generally made available, must not trade a water access right that is subject to the water announcement, or whose price or value would be materially affected by the announcement until that announcement is made.</p>	<p>South Australia is compliant with the requirements of D7. Water announcements are published in a way that makes them generally available as evidenced in our response to D1 above “s 12.50 Water Announcements to be made generally available”.</p> <p>South Australia can confirm that appropriate governance arrangements have been implemented in relevant state government agencies. These governance arrangements are detailed in the DEWNR Policy and Procedure for Managing Sensitive Water Market Information and Trading.</p> <p>The DEWNR procedure sets out a process for the Minister and his delegates to follow to ensure that, if they become aware of a water announcement before it is made generally available, they are aware they must not trade.</p>
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E. Northern Basin Review

Reporting Matter	Supporting evidence to be provided by Basin States	Response (milestone achievement/compliance status)
Reviews of the Plan		
<p>E1 Provide advice and assessments of the MDBA's studies for, and review of, the work underpinning the SDLs in the Northern Basin.</p> <p><i>Applicable to BPIA 13.1</i></p>	<p>The MDBA will undertake the review of the work underpinning SDLs for the Northern Basin, in collaboration with New South Wales and Queensland, who will participate in the review and advise on associated studies, processes and final recommendations. States would need to provide evidence of their involvement in the review, including their participation in relevant advisory groups.</p>	<p>This is not applicable to South Australia</p>

F. SDL Adjustment & Constraints Management

Reporting Matter	Supporting evidence to be provided by Basin States	Response (milestone achievement/compliance status)
Constraints Management Strategy		
<p>F1 Review and provide advice on measures recommended in the Constraints Management Strategy.</p> <p><i>Applicable to NPA 7 and BPIA 14.1</i></p>	<p>The Basin States will review the recommendations of the Constraints Management Strategy having regard to benefits and costs, available funding, third party impacts and community views.</p> <p>Basin States will advise the MDBA of their proposed responses to the relevant Constraints Management Strategy recommendations.</p>	<p>South Australia progressed the Constraints Management Strategy as a member of the River Murray Constraints Steering Committee with representatives from the Murray-Darling Basin Authority and Commonwealth, Victorian and New South Wales governments. The Committee oversaw the preparation of constraints measures business cases progress measures to address physical constraints to environmental water delivery across the Basin. South Australia submitted its business case in March 2016.</p> <p>South Australia reviewed hydrological modelling, updated flow inundation mapping and provided input to a number of projects undertaken to assess the potential impacts, identify mitigation strategies and estimate costs of constraints measures. South Australia also led community consultation with shack communities, local councils and state government asset managers to provide input to the constraints measures business case.</p>
<p>F2: Develop constraint management proposals.</p> <p><i>Applicable to NPA 7 and BPIA 14.2</i></p>	<p>Basin States may develop proposals to address constraints, having regard to the Constraints Management Strategy</p>	<p>South Australia prepared a constraints measures business case to address physical constraints to environmental water delivery for the River Murray in South Australia. The business case was submitted for Phase 2 assessment under the Sustainable Diversion Limit Adjustment Mechanism in March 2016.</p>
Preparation of proposed measures for SDL adjustment		
<p>F3 Prepare and assess proposals for supply measures.</p> <p><i>Applicable to NPA 9 and BPIA 15.1</i></p>	<p>Proponents will prepare proposals in accordance with assessment guideline and informed by the method for calculation of supply contribution. SDLAAC and BOC will assess the proposals.</p>	<p>South Australia has submitted a further two SDL adjustment supply measures for consideration under the SDL adjustment mechanism, including the South Australian Riverland Floodplain Integrated Infrastructure Programme and Flows for the Future. Phase 2 business cases for these proposals were submitted on 15 February 2016 and 16 March 2016 respectively and are currently under review by the Sustainable Diversion Limit Assessment Advisory Committee (SDLAAC) for progression to Phase 3.</p> <p>The three previously submitted South Australian SDL adjustment proposals, including the Riverine Recovery Project, Chowilla The Living Murray works and South East Flows Restoration Project have been endorsed by SDLAAC to progress to the next phase of comment and development (Phase 3). SDLAAC are currently reviewing the Phase 3 documentation.</p>
<p>F4 Prepare and assess proposals for efficiency measures</p> <p><i>Applicable to BPIA 15.2</i></p>	<p>Basin States may develop and implement proposals for efficiency measures for inclusion in the BOC package of measures prior to 30 June 2016. Basin States may also develop and implement proposals for additional efficiency measures after 30 June 2016.</p>	<p>South Australia participates in regular teleconferences held with the Commonwealth, Victoria and New South Wales to discuss and provide advice on Commonwealth efficiency measures program, including the Commonwealth On-Farm Further Irrigation Efficiency (COFFIE) program.</p> <p>A pilot program for COFFIE will shortly commence in South Australia.</p> <p>South Australia will continue to investigate opportunities to develop proposals for additional efficiency measures.</p>

Reallocation of reduction requests

F5 Request MDBA to propose re-allocation of shared reduction amount.

Basin States can request the MDBA to propose a re-allocation of the shared reduction amount within affected SDL resource units in that Basin State.

South Australia requested a reallocation of shared reduction amounts under the Basin Plan on 21 June 2016.

Applicable to BPIA 16.1

G. Critical Human Water Needs

Reporting Matter	Supporting evidence to be provided by Basin States	Response (milestone achievement/compliance status)
Risk management approach for inter-annual planning for critical human water needs arrangements		
<p>G1 Consider the water available for critical human water needs before allocating water to other uses.</p> <p><i>Applicable to BPIA 27.1</i></p>	<p>The MDBA will provide New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia with Water Resource Assessments, from which the States make decisions about allocations. Assessments will be provided at least monthly, and more frequently if conditions warrant.</p>	<p>South Australia's water allocations are provided in the 2015-16 River Murray Allocation Framework published on DEWNR's website: http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/managing-natural-resources/river-murray/water-allocation-and-trade/water-allocations-and-announcements/historical-water-allocations</p> <p>South Australia received its full Entitlement Flow of 1,850 GL in 2015-16 and therefore sufficient water was available to meet critical human water needs (CHWN) supplies. Advice was provided to the MDBA in May 2015 confirming that South Australia had access to its full CHWN volume for 2015-16.</p>
<p>G2 Make decisions on allocations.</p> <p><i>Applicable to BPIA 27.2</i></p>	<p>During periods of Tier 3 water sharing arrangements, the MDBA will provide the Ministerial Council with Water Resource Assessments, from which New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia make decisions about allocations when determining if water can be made available for uses other than critical human water. Assessments will be provided at least monthly, and more frequently if conditions warrant.</p> <p>A Basin State must have regard to advice from the Authority regarding the volume of water to be made available to it in a particular year, when making decisions about whether water is made available for uses other than meeting critical human water needs (s11.08(3)).</p>	<p>No periods of Tier 3 water sharing occurred in 2015-16.</p> <p>South Australia had regard to advice provided by the MDBA in their water availability assessments when making water allocation decisions.</p>
Commencement and cessation of Tier 3 water sharing arrangements		
<p>G3 Determine whether the trigger is reached and Tier 3 applies.</p> <p><i>Applicable to BPIA 28.1</i></p>	<p>The MDBA, through the preparation of the Water Resource Assessment will determine if the appropriate conditions apply. If New South Wales, Victoria or South Australia considers the triggers have been reached, its BOC member should advise the Executive Director, River Management Division, MDBA. The Guideline for triggers and processes for changing water sharing Tiers provides more information on how the MDBA will communicate a change in water sharing arrangements to the Basin States, CEWH and the Department.</p>	<p>No triggers were reached in the water year 2015-16.</p>

H. Water Resource Plans

Reporting Matter	Supporting evidence to be provided by Basin States	Response (milestone achievement/compliance status)
Reporting requirements		
<p>H1 Develop water quality management plans as part of their water resource plans that identify measures to achieve objectives.</p> <p><i>Applicable to BPIA 22.1</i></p>	<p>Please provide a statement of progress where water quality management plans have not yet been developed.</p> <p>The Handbook for Practitioners for Chapter 10, Water Resource Plan Requirements provides guidance regarding the development and accreditation of water resource plans.</p>	<p>Water Quality Management Plans for South Australia's three water resource plan areas are currently under development as part of the state's Water Resource Plan development program process (see section H2). As part of the program, a final draft Water Quality Management Plan has been developed for the South Australian Murray Region, an initial draft Water Quality Management Plan for the Eastern Mount Lofty Ranges has been submitted to the MDBA for comment and development of the South Australian River Murray Water Quality Management Plan has commenced.</p>
Develop of water resource plans for accreditation		
<p>H2 Develop water resource plans for accreditation</p> <p><i>Applicable to BPIA 24.1</i></p>	<p>Please provide a statement of progress where water resource plans have not yet been developed.</p>	<p>South Australia is developing three water resource plans:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) South Australian Murray Region 2) Eastern Mount Lofty Ranges 3) South Australian River Murray <p>South Australia has adopted a three step process for developing its water resource plans:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Development program (includes the risk analysis and a detailed gap analysis) 2) Draft water resource plan for MDBA feedback 3) Water resource plan – final draft for accreditation <p>Progress on water resource plans</p> <p><i>South Australian Murray Region</i> The development program was submitted to the MDBA for comment in March 2015. The draft water resource plan is in progress and is expected to be completed in the second half of 2016.</p> <p><i>Eastern Mount Lofty Ranges</i> The development program was submitted to the MDBA for comment May 2016.</p> <p><i>South Australian River Murray</i> The development program is in progress.</p>

Development of an integrated hydrologic model across the Basin

H3 Adopt eWater source

Applicable to BPIA 25.1

Please provide a statement of progress where eWater source has not yet been adopted.

The MDBA standard for water resource plan accreditation is eWater Source for water resource planning and operations, having regard to the modelling practices of Basin States and the nature of water resource plan areas and operational readiness of the model as it relates to a water resource plan area.

All new hydrological models are now developed using eWater source platform. Existing models are retained where they remain appropriate and fit for purpose.

The MDBA's Source model of the River Murray is regularly used to inform operations of the Lower Lakes and barrages based on updated forecasts from the MDBA for flow to South Australia.

Statement of reasons why watering not undertaken complying Basin Environmental Watering Priorities (BAEWP) for 2015–16 (Refer Matter 10 – Indicator 10.3 and BP IA Task 20.2)

Section 8.44 of the Basin Plan (2012) requires that: If a person undertakes environmental watering other than in accordance with the Basin annual environmental watering priorities accessible at <http://www.mdba.gov.au/sites/default/files/pubs/2015-16-Basin-annual-environmental-watering-priorities.pdf> that person must give to the Authority a statement of reasons why environmental watering has not been undertaken in accordance with the Basin annual environmental watering priorities (8.44(1)). The person must give the statement to the Authority as soon as practicable, but in any event within four months after the end of the water accounting period in which the environmental watering was undertaken (8.44(2)). The Authority may publish on its website the statement of reasons given.

	Basin annual environmental watering (BAEWP) priorities for 2015–16	Jurisdictions to consider reporting	Please tick (x), where BAEWP not complied with	Statement of reasons why BAEWP not followed
River flows and connectivity				
1	Basin-wide flow variability and longitudinal connectivity: <i>Provide flow variability and longitudinal connectivity within rivers to support refuge habitats.</i>	NSW, Vic, ACT, SA, Qld, CEWH, TLM		BAEWP followed
2	River Murray weir pool variation: <i>Ensure a variable flow pattern and lateral connectivity through coordinated weir pool management in the River Murray from Euston to Blanchetown.</i>	NSW, Vic, SA, CEWH, TLM		BAEWP followed
3	Coorong, Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth: <i>Improve water quality, fringing vegetation and native fish movement by varying the water levels in Lakes Alexandrina and Albert to maintain flows into the Coorong and Murray Mouth.</i>	SA, CEWH, TLM,		BAEWP followed
Native vegetation				
4	Basin-wide in-stream and riparian vegetation: <i>Maintain and where possible improve the condition of in-</i>	NSW, Vic, ACT, SA, Qld, CEWH, TLM		BAEWP followed

	Basin annual environmental watering (BAEWP) priorities for 2015–16	Jurisdictions to consider reporting	Please tick (x), where BAEWP not complied with	Statement of reasons why BAEWP not followed
	<i>stream riparian vegetation, through in-channel freshes.</i>			
5	Mid-Murrumbidgee Wetlands: <i>Improve the condition of wetland vegetation communities in the mid-Murrumbidgee wetlands.</i>	NSW, CEWH		
6	Macquarie Marshes: <i>Maintain semi-permanent wetland vegetation in core refuge areas in the Macquarie Marshes</i>	NSW, CEWH		
7	Moria grass: <i>Maintain the condition and range of Moria grass in Barmah—Millewa Forest by supplementing a natural event and extending the duration of inundation.</i>	NSW, Vic, CEWH, TLM		
Waterbirds				
8	Basin-wide waterbird habitat and future population recovery: <i>Improve the complexity and health of priority waterbird habitat to maintain species richness and aid future population recovery.</i>	NSW, Vic, ACT, SA, Qld, CEWH, TLM		BAEWP followed
Native fish				
9	Basin-wide native fish habitat and movement: <i>Maintain native fish populations by protecting and improving the condition of fish habitat and providing opportunities for movement.</i>	NSW, Vic, ACT, SA, Qld, CEWH, TLM		BAEWP followed

	Basin annual environmental watering (BAEWP) priorities for 2015–16	Jurisdictions to consider reporting	Please tick (x), where BAEWP not complied with	Statement of reasons why BAEWP not followed
10	Northern Basin fish refuges: <i>Protect native fish populations and in-stream habitats, particular drought refuges, in the northern Basin.</i>	NSW, Qld, CEWH		
11	Silver perch: <i>Contribute to the long-term recovery of silver perch by maintaining key populations, supporting recruitment and facilitating movement and dispersal.</i>	NSW, Vic, ACT, SA, Qld, CEWH, TLM		BAEWP followed