



Australian Government

Department of Climate Change, Energy,
the Environment and Water

Basin state performance assessment:

Implementing Water Reform in the Murray–Darling Basin

Water Division



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Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of Australia and their continuing connection to land and sea, waters, environment and community. We pay our respects to the Traditional Custodians of the lands we live and work on, their culture, and their Elders past and present.

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Background

The Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) on Implementing Water Reform in the Murray–Darling Basin is an undertaking by the Australian Government and the Murray–Darling Basin state governments. It builds on existing achievements by implementing water reforms that further improve the health of the Murray–Darling Basin and secure a future for its communities. Part 7 of the IGA committed the Australian Government to providing financial support to the Basin states via the National Partnership Agreement on Implementing Water Reform in the Murray–Darling Basin (NPA).

Following expiry of the NPA on 30 June 2020, the Australian Government committed to providing further funding to support Basin state implementation of water reform. This was initially achieved through a one-year agreement (the Federation Funding Agreement [FFA] – Environment Schedule on Implementing Water Reform in the Murray–Darling Basin), while the development and negotiations took place for a further three-year agreement. The one-year agreement expired on 30 June 2021.

This report is the first year assessment (2021/22) of the current three year agreement, the FFA – [Environment Schedule – Implementing water reform in the Murray–Darling Basin](#) (2021/22 to 2023/24).

Each Basin state committed to implementing the Schedule in accordance with milestones and key performance indicators (KPIs) set out in Tables 2A to 2E of the agreement, and reporting on progress through a performance report delivered on 31 March 2022. The Schedule was signed by all parties and executed by the minister in April 2022. Due to the delay in signing the Schedule, the department took a pragmatic approach when conducting the first year assessment.

Assessor's role

Using the performance reports and any supporting documentation provided by each Basin state, the assessor (the former Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment [DAWE]) evaluated jurisdictional performance against KPIs in Tables 2A to 2E of the Schedule, as required in the Schedule's additional terms. Based on this assessment, the assessor provided advice to the Senior Executive of Water Division regarding Basin state performance against the KPIs. The department, under delegation from the then Government's water minister during the federal election 2022 caretaker period, made decisions on payments to each Basin state under the Schedule.

Assessment scope and approach

This report provides commentary on Basin state progress against the actions listed in Tables 1 to 5, in line with the assessment advice. Performance reports and assessment commentary are based on Basin state performance to 31 March 2022. In conducting the assessment, the assessor considered each Basin state's performance report in consultation with the Commonwealth Environmental Water Office (CEWO), the Murray–Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) and the Inspector-General of Water Compliance (IGWC). Basin states were given an opportunity to comment and provide feedback on this assessment report before it was finalised.

1 Assessment for New South Wales

1.1 Summary of findings

New South Wales has met most of its key performance indicators (KPIs) and made satisfactory progress under the Schedule.

The milestones and key performance indicators for NSW are set out in the second and third columns of Table 1 below. Findings for NSW’s performance against the KPIs are summarised in column four in the order they appear in the original Schedule. Full findings and details of the assessment are included after the table in this chapter.

Table 1 Summary of findings for New South Wales

Output	Performance milestones	Key performance indicators	Due date/Finding
Water Recovery	1. Transform entitlements as appropriate, work to support the Commonwealth to meet the remaining bridging-the-gap commitments, and progress water recovery towards the 450 gigalitres via efficiency measures through a greater focus on off-farm projects that deliver neutral or positive socio-economic outcomes for communities	1 a. Work with the Commonwealth on water recovery projects, including setting up governance arrangements and schedules as appropriate, conducting outreach and engagement with irrigation networks and transforming entitlements as appropriate	31 March 2022 KPI met
		1 b. Submit applications for the Off-Farm Efficiency Program under state-led arrangements, to meet legislative delivery timeframes, using the Ministerial Council stocktake as a starting point. Business case applications will include socio-economic analysis and proposals for transfer of water entitlements	31 March 2022 KPI met
		1 c. Proactively provide support and advice on possible approaches and projects to bridge-the-gap under the Off-Farm Efficiency Program arrangements, or other arrangements	31 March 2022 KPI met
	2. Change stock and domestic water entitlements (as required) so they can be used for water recovery by the Commonwealth	2 a. Submit a project plan outlining the necessary mechanisms and steps relevant to the transformation of stock and domestic entitlements to enable water recovery and transfer of licenses as required	31 March 2022 KPI met
Coordinated environmental water use	3. Deliver an agreed Basin-wide Environmental Water Protection Strategy and Implementation Plan	3 a. Through the Environmental Water Committee (EWC), define and agree a workplan of priority collaborative activities to deliver the Environmental Water Protection Strategy, where relevant to the jurisdiction	31 March 2022 KPI met

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Output	Performance milestones	Key performance indicators	Due date/Finding
	4. Improve environmental watering plans and strategies, including by updating Long-Term Watering Plans (LTWPs) within agreed timeframes	4 a. Engage with all stakeholders, in the development of annual environmental water plans or priorities; and in the implementation, review and update of LTWPs, where relevant to the jurisdiction	31 March 2022 KPI met.
Implementation of the Basin Plan	5. Implement the Sustainable Diversion Limit Adjustment Mechanism (SDLAM) program, where not funded under other agreements	5 a. Actively work with the Commonwealth to optimise and address risks to SDLAM program outcomes, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - establishment of a process to formally amend project scope - resolution of critical policy issues to enable agreement to Stage 2 funding arrangements - fast-tracking relevant projects - investigating the potential for existing, enhanced projects to contribute to Basin Plan outcomes 	31 March 2022 KPI met
		5 b. Identify, develop and progress required changes to the River Murray Operations Framework and Murray–Darling Basin Agreement. Any changes are to be agreed by all jurisdictions.	31 March 2022 KPI met
		5 c. Work with the Murray–Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) and participate in the reconciliation process, including the application of the reconciliation adjustment default method set out in Schedule 6 of the Basin Plan, or the development of an alternative method that is requested by the Basin Officials Committee (BOC) and the Authority under s7.15(2)(b); and the provision of relevant supporting information.	31 March 2022 KPI met
	6. Contribute to delivery of the MDBA-led Sustainable Diversion Limit (SDL) Accounting Framework Improvement Strategy 2020–25 workplan, including supplying data and quality assurance documentation	6 a. Contribute to developing a workplan to implement the SDL Accounting Framework Improvement Strategy 2020–25, led by the MDBA and agreed by BOC Alternates (BOCA)	31 March 2022 KPI met
		6 b. Implement the SDL Accounting Framework Improvement Strategy workplan led by the MDBA, as relevant to the jurisdiction	31 March 2022 KPI met
	7. Ensure state water planning frameworks that are included in Water Resource Plans (WRPs) remain consistent with the Basin Plan	7 a. Submit amendments to WRPs to the Commonwealth for approval where state water planning frameworks in WRPs become inconsistent with the Basin Plan	31 March 2022 KPI not met

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Output	Performance milestones	Key performance indicators	Due date/Finding
	8. Deliver required Basin Plan monitoring, evaluation, science and reporting	8 a. Deliver Basin Plan reporting under Schedule 12, including reporting under Matters 8, 12, 18 and 19 and 21 (compliance with WRPs, such as but not limited to Parts 4, 6, 14)	31 March 2022 KPI met
		8 b. Deliver on agreed strategic activities under the Basin Monitoring Evaluation and Reporting Working Group annual work plan as endorsed by BOCA	31 March 2022 KPI met
Water market improvement	9. Improve water market trading arrangements across the Basin	9 a. Contribute to the development of a road map for Murray–Darling Basin water market reform in response to the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) report	31 March 2022 KPI met
	10. Establish two-way entitlement and allocation trade between the ACT and NSW, to ensure protection of future environmental water downstream from the ACT	10 a. Implement the agreed work plan to establish a transfer and trade mechanism with the ACT, noting that establishment of this mechanism is to be in accordance with the principles agreed on 01/09/2021	31 March 2022 KPI met
Improved compliance and reporting	11. Implement revised Metrological Assurance Framework (MAF2)	11 a. Develop an implementation plan that integrates MAF2 requirements into the state’s metering compliance plan/policy	31 March 2022 KPI met
	12. Work with the Inspector-General of Water Compliance (IGWC) to provide clear compliance arrangements and reporting in the Murray–Darling Basin	12 a. Contribute to the establishment of memorandums of understanding (MoUs) and/or protocols with the IGWC where relevant to the jurisdiction	31 March 2022 KPI met
		12 b. Provide input to the IGWC on the development of standards and guidelines	31 March 2022 KPI met
		12 c. Report to the IGWC against MAF2 Chapter 15 at least annually or in accordance with IGWC guidelines	31 March 2022 KPI met
		12 d. Provide performance data to the IGWC subject to agreed reporting guidelines (annually)	31 March 2022 KPI met
	13. Response to the Compliance Compact Review	13 a. Develop a set of metrics to be used to communicate and report on water compliance performance and effort across the Basin	31 March 2022 KPI met
	14. Compliance Compact oversight	14 a. Provide information to the IGWC as requested and in accordance with agreed MoU/guidelines to enable oversight of Compliance Compact requirements	31 March 2022 KPI met

Output	Performance milestones	Key performance indicators	Due date/Finding
Enhanced and coordinated consultation and engagement with all Basin communities	15. Improve consultation and strategic engagement in collaboration with the Commonwealth and other Basin governments.	15 a. Report on improvements made on strategic consultation, engagement and coordination with Basin communities, in collaboration with the Commonwealth and other Basin governments.	31 March 2022 KPI met

1.2 Full findings

1.2.1 Water recovery

Transform entitlements as appropriate, work to support the Commonwealth to meet the remaining bridging-the-gap commitments, and progress water recovery towards the 450 gigalitres via efficiency measures through a greater focus on off-farm projects that deliver neutral or positive socio-economic outcomes for communities

NSW met this commitment.

Governance arrangements have been set up within NSW to implement the Australian Government’s Off-Farm Efficiency Program (OFEP). This includes an OFEP Steering Committee and Expert Panel, which have been established with terms of reference. NSW has also developed a Probity Plan and the NSW Review Plan, which will be used to guide implementation of the OFEP. Initial outreach with organisations identified in the Ministerial Council 2020 Stocktake of off-farm infrastructure concept proposals – also known as the Stocktake Report – has been completed, with additional engagement planned for later in 2022, as per the NSW OFEP Communications Strategy. NSW has engaged a consultant to complete a licence entitlement document that will detail the processes for transfer of entitlements in state-led projects.

Approval for the \$126.48 million NSW Murrumbidgee Irrigation Automation Finalisation project under the OFEP was announced in January 2022. NSW continues to assist in the preparation of applications under the OFEP and participate in discussions about potential OFEP projects.

Change stock and domestic water entitlements as required so they can be used for water recovery by the Commonwealth

NSW met this commitment.

NSW engaged a consultant to complete a licence entitlement document that will detail the processes for the transfer of entitlements in state-led projects. This includes the transformation of stock and domestic entitlements and other entitlement types. This document has been submitted as a draft to the Australian Government.

1.2.2 Coordinated environmental water use

Deliver an agreed Basin-wide Environmental Water Protection Strategy and Implementation Plan NSW met this commitment.

NSW have been proactive in the Environmental Water Committee (EWC) annual stocktake of progress for implementing environmental water protection measures.

NSW provided background material and updates on progress towards the implementation of the Environmental Water Protection Implementation Plan and participated in a workshop at EWC Meeting 5 as part of the first annual review of environmental water protection measures. This workshop generated advice for the Basin Officials Committee (BOC) on progress, priorities, and gaps in relation to implementation of the plan.

NSW also participated in a jurisdiction working group to consider activities contributing to delivery of the Environmental Water Protection Strategy, with the group reporting back to EWC at Meeting 7.

NSW established a Prerequisite Policy Measures (PPM) Working Group, which is actively involved in PPM implementation and adaptive management within the state.

NSW continues to work through issues collaboratively with the Northern Basin Environmental Watering Group, and the PPM Working Group/Environmental Watering Improvement Group, noting the approach to PPM in NSW continues to evolve through adaptive management.

Improve environmental watering plans and strategies including by updating Long-Term Watering Plans (LTWPs) within agreed timeframes

NSW met this commitment.

NSW submitted all nine of its LTWPs to the Authority within the agreed timeframes in 2020 along with its draft Water Resource Plans (WRP). Because the LTWP must reflect content in WRPs, all relevant LTWPs will also need to be revised and resubmitted to the Authority within 3 months of the accreditation of the WRPs.

1.2.3 Implementation of the Basin Plan

Implement the Sustainable Diversion Limit Adjustment Mechanism (SDLAM) program, where not funded under other agreements

NSW met this commitment.

NSW has contributed to and participated in the elements listed under this indicator. NSW has contributed to and participated in the Sustainable Diversion Limit Adjustment Mechanism Implementation Committee (SDLAMIC), Basin Officials Committee Alternates (BOCA) and BOC and prepared papers for these committees.

In August 2021, NSW launched the Reconnecting River Country (the NSW constraints program) and has accelerated delivery of some infrastructure upgrades for part of the program.

Over the reporting period, NSW continued to rescope the Menindee Lakes and the Yanco Creek offtake projects. This includes preliminary analysis of potential changes to the Menindee Lakes

operational arrangements in order to maximise available water in the lakes, enhance local environmental outcomes and potentially contribute to the SDL adjustment volume at reconciliation.

Discussions with the River Murray Operations Committee and other interjurisdictional forums will be required to further develop and progress the SDLAM program in the 2022/23 reporting period. Future work on the program may require NSW to progress changes to the Murray–Darling Basin Agreement and subsidiary documents for the rules-based supply measures for which they are proponents.

NSW has contributed to the Authority’s SDLAM assurance process and to arrangements for assessing and making amendments to the scope of projects.

Contribute to delivery of the MDBA-led Sustainable Diversion Limit (SDL) Accounting Framework Improvement Strategy 2020–2025 workplan, including supplying data and quality assurance documentation

NSW met this commitment.

NSW supported and participated in all activities contributing to the development and implementation of a workplan for the SDL Accounting Framework Improvement Strategy 2020–2025.

Ensure state water planning frameworks that are included in the Water Resources Plans (WRPs) remain consistent with the Basin Plan

NSW did not meet this commitment.

Draft NSW WRPs were provided to the Authority in 2020. Final plans that are consistent with the Basin Plan have not yet been submitted for the 20 plan areas in NSW.

Deliver required Basin Plan monitoring, evaluation, science and reporting

NSW met this commitment.

NSW submitted its annual 2020–21 Schedule 12 reporting in a timely manner. The Authority confirmed that NSW reporting was in accordance with the 2020–21 Schedule 12 reporting guidance.

NSW was not required to submit Matter 19 reporting for the 2020–21 reporting period, as it does not yet have any WRPs accredited.

NSW participated in discussions related to the development of reporting guidance for 5 yearly Schedule 12 Matters (8, 12, 18) through the Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (MER) Working Group and the Water Quality Advisory Panel. These reports are due to be submitted to the Authority by 31 October 2024.

NSW was engaged through formal and informal processes to progress delivery of the MER Working Group Annual Workplan KPI’s for 2021. NSW acted as the Chair of the MER Working Group for the reporting period and is continuing in that role.

1.2.4 Water market improvement

Improve water market trading arrangements across the Basin

NSW met this commitment.

NSW participated in interjurisdictional workshops to support development and delivery of the roadmap for water market reform.

The stakeholder consultation that NSW undertook following the release of the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) Final Report had an important role in informing early reform actions that were provided by the Principal Advisor in December 2021 and agreed to by the former Commonwealth Water Minister.

Establish two-way allocation and entitlement trade between the ACT and NSW to ensure protection of future environmental water downstream from the ACT

NSW met this commitment.

NSW continues to work collaboratively with the ACT Government, the Authority and with the former Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (DAWE, now the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water) to develop the transfer and trade mechanism.

NSW will undertake further work once the ACT have settled revisions to the workplan. NSW and ACT are currently engaged in technical work, modelling iterative risk scenarios on proposed water sources for trade. Modelling will assist in determining whether there will be any impact on NSW water users as a consequence of trade.

1.2.5 Improved compliance and reporting

Implement revised Meteorological Assurance Framework (MAF2)

NSW met this commitment.

NSW considers that the NSW Non-Urban Metering policy wholly aligns with the MAF2 requirements and is verifying this with a statement against the provisions of the MAF2 policy.

Work with the Inspector-General of Water Compliance (IGWC) to provide clear compliance arrangements and reporting in the Murray–Darling Basin

NSW met this commitment.

NSW worked with the Office of the Inspector-General on a draft MoU. NSW attended meetings to progress this and provided substantial feedback on draft versions. The revised MoU was the subject of discussion at the IGWC Regulatory Leaders meeting on 15 March and 21 June 2022. NSW endorsed the MoU header agreement for signature on 21 June 2022 and continues to work with the Inspector-General to finalise the Schedules to the memorandum.

NSW participated in and contributed to several water compliance reviews and audits that may feed into the development of standards and guidelines in the future. No request has been made during the reporting period by the Inspector-General to input into the development of standards and guidelines.

NSW has, through the Natural Resources Access Regulator (NRAR), the Department of Planning and Environment Water and WaterNSW, participated in numerous group and one-on-one meetings and provided feedback on preliminary findings towards the Compliance and Enforcement Framework Review draft report and provided detailed further supporting information as requested.

NRAR attended five meetings since April 2021 relating to the Research into Non-urban Water Metering and Measurement Compliance Report– known as the Baringa Report – and reviewed and provided input and feedback on the report itself. A further meeting with the Inspector-General was held in March 2022, relating to the development of a metering and measurement scorecard.

NSW has not yet received a request from the Inspector-General to report against MAF2 Chapter 15.

NSW currently reports to the Inspector-General on the Compliance Compact and provided data in December 2021 and January 2022 on the implementation of metering and measurement in NSW and on associated compliance related activities. NSW met with the Inspector-General and other jurisdictions in March 2022 to agree on reporting metrics for metering.

Response to the Compliance Compact Review

NSW met this commitment.

Prior to the commencement of the reporting period, NSW co-hosted an interjurisdictional meeting with the Authority about a standard performance reporting framework. The outcome of this meeting was the development of metrics around metering reporting across Basin jurisdictions – the Baringa Report.

Compliance Compact oversight

NSW met this commitment.

NSW attended interjurisdictional meetings and reviewed and provided feedback on the draft MoU during 2021/2022.

NSW participated in a further interjurisdictional Regulatory Leaders Forum on 15 March 2022 where the draft MoU/guidelines and Basin Compliance Compact Reporting was included on the agenda and was circulated for discussion and decision. The Inspector-General did not request information during the reporting period.

1.2.6 Enhanced and coordinated consultation and engagement with all the Basin communities

Improve consultation and strategic engagement in collaboration with the Commonwealth and other Basin governments

NSW met this commitment.

NSW made significant efforts to provide greater transparency and increased opportunities for inclusion in consultation and engagement activities, particularly for Basin communities.

Improvements made by NSW during the reporting period include the establishment of the Water Engagement Roundup in 2021 as a monthly webinar designed to provide an opportunity for any interested parties to become informed about engagement activities underway. It also established a dedicated First Nations Engagement team reflecting the importance of appropriate, timely and coordinated consultation and a commitment to increasing participation in engagement from First Nations communities and improving engagement and consultation with First Nations peoples across the Murray–Darling Basin catchments.

Stakeholder engagement professionals and key project staff continue to participate in cross agency engagement planning discussions for water infrastructure projects to ensure opportunities for collaboration are maximised.

2 Assessment for Victoria

2.1 Summary of findings

Victoria has met all its key performance indicators and made satisfactory progress under the Schedule.

The milestones and key performance indicators for Victoria are set out in the second and third columns of Table 2 below. Findings for Victoria’s performance against the key performance indicators (KPIs) are summarised in column four in the order they appear in the original Schedule. Full findings and details of the assessment are included after the table in this chapter.

Table 2 Summary of findings for Victoria

Output	Performance milestones	Key performance indicators	Due date/ Finding
Water Recovery	1. Transform entitlements as appropriate, work to support the Commonwealth to meet the remaining bridging-the-gap commitments, and progress water recovery towards the 450 gigalitres via efficiency measures through a greater focus on off-farm projects that deliver neutral or positive socio-economic outcomes for communities	1 a. Work with the Commonwealth on water recovery projects, including setting up governance arrangements and schedules as appropriate, conducting outreach and engagement with irrigation networks and transforming entitlements as appropriate	31 March 2022 KPI met
		1 b. Submit applications for the Off-Farm Efficiency Program under state-led arrangements, to meet legislative delivery timeframes, using the Ministerial Council stocktake as a starting point. Business case applications will include socio-economic analysis and proposals for transfer of water entitlements	31 March 2022 KPI met
Coordinated environmental water use	2. Deliver an agreed Basin-wide Environmental Water Protection Strategy and Implementation Plan	2 a. Through the Environmental Water Committee (EWC), define and agree a workplan of priority collaborative activities to deliver the Environmental Water Protection Strategy, where relevant to the jurisdiction	31 March 2022 KPI met
		3. Improve environmental watering plans and strategies, including by updating Long-Term Watering Plans (LTWPs) within agreed timeframes	31 March 2022 KPI met

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Output	Performance milestones	Key performance indicators	Due date/ Finding
Implementation of the Basin Plan	4. Implement the Sustainable Diversion Limit Adjustment Mechanism (SDLAM) program, where not funded under other agreements	4 a. Actively work with the Commonwealth to optimise and address risks to SDLAM program outcomes, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - establishment of a process to formally amend project scope - resolution of critical policy issues to enable agreement to Stage 2 funding arrangements - fast-tracking relevant projects - investigating the potential for existing, enhanced projects to contribute to Basin Plan outcomes 	31 March 2022 KPI met
		4 b. Identify, develop and progress required changes to the River Murray Operations Framework and Murray–Darling Basin Agreement. Any changes are to be agreed by all jurisdictions	31 March 2022 KPI met
		4 c. Work with the Murray–Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) and participate in the reconciliation process, including the application of the reconciliation adjustment default method set out in Schedule 6 of the Basin Plan, or the development of an alternative method that is requested by the Basin Officials Committee (BOC) and the Authority under s7.15(2)(b); and the provision of relevant supporting information	31 March 2022 KPI met
	5. Contribute to delivery of the MDBA-led Sustainable Diversion Limit (SDL) Accounting Framework Improvement Strategy 2020–25 workplan, including supplying data and quality assurance documentation	5 a. Contribute to developing a workplan to implement the SDL Accounting Framework Improvement Strategy 2020–25, led by the MDBA and agreed by BOC Alternates (BOCA)	31 March 2022 KPI met
		5 b. Implement the SDL Accounting Framework Improvement Strategy workplan led by the MDBA, as relevant to the jurisdiction	31 March 2022 KPI met
	6. Ensure state water planning frameworks that are included in Water Resource Plans (WRPs) remain consistent with the Basin Plan	6 a. Submit amendments to WRPs to the Commonwealth for approval where state water planning frameworks in WRPs become inconsistent with the Basin Plan	31 March 2022 KPI met
	7. Deliver required Basin Plan monitoring, evaluation, science and reporting	7 a. Deliver Basin Plan reporting under Schedule 12, including reporting under Matters 8, 12, 18 and 19 and 21 (compliance with WRPs, such as but not limited to Parts 4, 6, 14)	31 March 2022 KPI met

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Output	Performance milestones	Key performance indicators	Due date/ Finding
		7 b. Deliver on agreed strategic activities under the Basin Monitoring Evaluation and Reporting Working Group annual work plan as endorsed by BOCA	31 March 2022 KPI met
Water market improvement	8. Improve water market trading arrangements across the Basin	8 a. Contribute to the development of a road map for Murray–Darling Basin water market reform in response to the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) report	31 March 2022 KPI met
Improved compliance and reporting	9. Implement revised Metrological Assurance Framework (MAF2)	9 a. Develop an implementation plan that integrates MAF2 requirements into the state’s metering compliance plan/policy	31 March 2022 KPI met
	10. Work with the Inspector-General of Water Compliance (IGWC) to provide clear compliance arrangements and reporting in the Murray–Darling Basin	10 a. Contribute to the establishment of memorandums of understanding (MoUs) and/or protocols with the IGWC where relevant to the jurisdiction	31 March 2022 KPI met
		10 b. Provide input to the IGWC on the development of standards and guidelines	31 March 2022 KPI met
		10 c. Report to the IGWC against MAF2 Chapter 15 at least annually or in accordance with IGWC guidelines	31 March 2022 KPI met
		10 d. Provide performance data to the IGWC subject to agreed reporting guidelines (annually)	31 March 2022 KPI met
	11. Response to the Compliance Compact Review	11 a. Develop a set of metrics to be used to communicate and report on water compliance performance and effort across the Basin	31 March 2022 KPI met
12. Compliance Compact oversight	12 a. Provide information to the IGWC as requested and in accordance with agreed MoU/guidelines to enable oversight of Compliance Compact commitments	31 March 2022 KPI met	
Enhanced and coordinated consultation and engagement with all Basin communities	13. Improve consultation and strategic engagement in collaboration with the Commonwealth and other Basin governments	13 a. Report on improvements made on strategic consultation, engagement and coordination with Basin communities, in collaboration with the Commonwealth and other Basin governments	31 March 2022 KPI met

2.2 Full findings

2.2.1 Water recovery

Transform entitlements as appropriate, work to support the Commonwealth to meet the remaining bridging-the-gap commitments, and progress water recovery towards the 450 gegalitres via efficiency measures through a greater focus on off-farm projects that deliver neutral or positive socio-economic outcomes for communities

Victoria met this commitment.

Victoria is on track to deliver the \$177.5 million Goulburn Murray Water (GMW) Water Efficiency Project of off-farm system upgrades. This will recover 15.9 GL long-term annual average yield (LTAAAY) water, as a contribution to Victoria's Murray–Darling Basin Plan recovery targets. The GMW project is making good progress on the scope of works for funding by the Australian Government. Victoria established robust governance including a Project Control Group and State-Commonwealth Advisory Group for the project. Officers from the Australian Government's Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water and Victoria's Department of Environment, Water, Land and Planning meet monthly to explore additional project opportunities.

In 2021, Victoria submitted the \$34 million Lower Murray Water (LMW) Water Efficiency Project for funding consideration by the Australian Government. It proposes to recover water through upgrading ageing channels and replacement of meters in the Sunraysia irrigation area.

Previously in 2018, Victoria's Northern Water Infrastructure Prospectus identified up to 9 GL in potential water recovery projects, which could be delivered without negative socio-economic impacts.

2.2.2 Coordinated environmental water use

Deliver an agreed Basin-wide Environmental Water Protection Strategy and Implementation Plan

Victoria met this commitment.

Victoria contributed to the development of priority plans and strategies and is continuing to work through any delivery issues collaboratively. Victoria have been proactive in the Environmental Water Committee (EWC) annual stocktake of progress for implementing environmental water protection measures.

Victoria provided background material and updates on progress towards implementation of the Environmental Water Protection Implementation Plan, then participated in a workshop at EWC Meeting 5 as part of the first annual review of environmental water protection measures. This workshop generated advice for the Basin Officials Committee (BOC) on progress, priorities, and gaps for delivery of the Environmental Water Protection Strategy and Implementation Plan.

Victoria also participated in a jurisdiction working group to consider activities contributing to the delivery of the Environmental Water Protection Strategy, with the group reporting back to the EWC Meeting 7.

Improve environmental watering plans and strategies including by updating Long-Term Watering Plans (LTWPs) within agreed timeframes

Victoria met this commitment.

In terms of LTWPs there were no deliverables required for the 2021–22 reporting period for Victoria. Victoria provided the updated Wimmera-Mallee, Northern Victoria, and Victorian Murray plans within the agreed timeframes. The Victorian plan clearly identified the consultation that was undertaken to develop the various components of each plan. The Victorian Environmental Water Management Plans informed the scientific basis for the LTWPs. The plans clearly link to the consultation that was undertaken with a broad range of stakeholders, including environmental water holders and managers, as well as local communities. No further updates are required to the Victorian LTWPs for now.

Victoria developed its Annual Watering Priorities within agreed timeframes. The MDBA corroborated that the Victorian approach to stakeholder engagement for developing the 2021–22 Annual Environmental Watering Priorities was consistent with the KPI requirements.

2.2.3 Implementation of the Basin Plan

Implement the Sustainable Diversion Limit Adjustment Mechanism (SDLAM) program, where not funded under other agreements

Victoria met this commitment.

Victoria contributed to the elements listed under this indicator. Victoria contributed to and prepared papers for the SDLAM Implementation Committee (SDLAMIC), BOC and the BOC Alternates (BOCA). Over the period, Victoria continued to deliver the Victorian Murray Floodplain Restoration Project and its constraints projects. Victoria advised that it intends to deliver feasibility studies for its constraints project by the end of 2022. The constraints projects remain at risk of not being delivered by 2024.

For future years of the Federation Funding Agreement (FFA) assessment, Victoria will need to progress any changes to the Murray–Darling Basin Agreement and subsidiary documents for the rules-based supply measures for which they are proponents.

Victoria has participated in the Authority’s assurance process and contributed to developing arrangements for making amendments to the scope of projects and to evaluating project completion.

Contribute to delivery of the MDBA-led Sustainable Diversion Limit (SDL) Accounting Framework Improvement Strategy 2020–2025 workplan, including supplying data and quality assurance documentation

Victoria met this commitment.

Victoria actively supported every activity for development of the workplan to implement the SDL Accounting Framework Improvement Strategy 2020–2025.

The MDBA met with Victoria on the SDL Accounting Framework Improvement Strategy in November 2021. Victoria’s Tranche 1 progress with the strategy was discussed at this meeting. The Authority held a further meeting in August 2022 with all Basin states and discussed progress of the workplan. Based on these discussions, the workplan will be finalised and agreed by October 2022.

Detailed discussion on Basin state requirements for implementation of the workplan is slated for a workshop planned for late 2022.

Ensure state water planning frameworks that are included in the Water Resources Plans (WRPs) remain consistent with the Basin Plan

Victoria met this commitment.

The extent to which state water planning is included in WRPs is relatively limited in Victoria. However, the Authority and Victorian officials have held initial discussions in relation to some proposed changes that would see the plans updated to align with the most recent version of the Basin Plan. No amendments have been submitted.

Deliver required Basin Plan monitoring, evaluation, science and reporting

Victoria met this commitment.

Victoria submitted its annual 2020–21 Schedule 12 reporting to the MDBA by 31 October 2021. The Authority confirmed that Victorian reporting was in accordance with the 2020–21 Schedule 12 reporting guidance.

Victoria participated in discussions related to the development of reporting guidance for 5 yearly Schedule 12 Matters (8, 12, 18) through the Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Working Group. These reports are due to be submitted to the Authority by 31 October 2024.

Matter 19 reports were provided to the Inspector-General of Water Compliance (IGWC) via the Authority. The quality of the content in the report is considered low value.

Victoria has been proactive through formal and informal processes to deliver the Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (MER) Working Group Annual Workplan KPI's for 2021.

2.2.4 Water market improvement

Improve water market trading arrangements across the Basin

Victoria met this commitment.

Victoria has been working with the Australian Government and Basin jurisdictions to develop a phased and practical roadmap for water market reform in response to the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) recommendations. In outlining Victoria's water market reform program, targeted consultations were undertaken with several key stakeholder groups: Victoria worked with the Australian Government and Basin jurisdictions to identify quick wins for water market reform. Principal Adviser, Daryl Quinlivan provided this preliminary advice to the former Minister for Resources and Water in December 2021. Victoria will continue to work with the Australian Government and its Basin counterparts to ensure that Victoria's interests are represented in the final roadmap.

2.2.5 Improved compliance and reporting

Implement revised Meteorological Assurance Framework (MAF2)

Victoria met this commitment.

Victoria collaborated with its rural water corporations to integrate the MAF2 requirements into Victoria's Non-Urban Metering Policy (2020) following endorsement by the National Water Reform Committee in April 2021.

Victoria will review and update the Non-Urban Metering Policy (2020) in the 2022–23 financial year to incorporate outcomes of the metering project and finalise MAF2 integration.

Work with the Inspector-General of Water Compliance to provide clear compliance arrangements and reporting in the Murray–Darling Basin

Victoria met this commitment.

Victoria contributed to the development of the MoU. The content was discussed at Regulatory Leaders meetings in December 2021 and in March 2022, as well as other informal meetings in between. In agreeing to the legislation passed by Federal Parliament in 2021, Victoria highlighted the importance of an MoU as an early step in establishing the role. Victoria also raised the need for the MoU to be prioritised at several BOC meetings.

Victoria contributed to developing standards and guidelines by participating in the Regulatory Leaders Forum and working with the Inspector-General on what the standards and guidelines may be used for in future. Victoria reports annually on progress implementing non-urban water metering. The annual implementation reports fulfil Victoria's commitment under Basin Compliance Compact (2018) action 3.7, Metrological Assurance Framework 2 Chapter 15 and Victoria's Non-Urban Metering Policy (2020). The Inspector-General has not requested any performance data on replacement reporting guidelines during the reporting period.

Response to the Compliance Compact Review

Victoria met this commitment.

Victoria participated in a working group to develop a set of metrics for reporting.

Compliance Compact oversight

Victoria met this commitment.

No information was requested from Victoria under this KPI during the reporting period.

2.2.6 Enhanced and coordinated consultation and engagement with all the Basin communities

Improve consultation and strategic engagement in collaboration with the Commonwealth and other Basin governments

Victoria met this commitment.

Victoria has been collaborating with other Basin jurisdictions to improve transparency and engagement on interjurisdictional matters. Through BOC and BOCA there has been agreement on early actions to improve transparency. A working group has been convened and Victoria has nominated its member.

3 Assessment for Queensland

3.1 Summary of findings

Queensland has met all its key performance indicators (KPIs) and made satisfactory progress under the Schedule.

The milestones and key performance indicators for Queensland are set out in the second and third columns of Table 3 below. Findings for Queensland’s performance against the KPIs are summarised in column four in the order they appear in the original Schedule. Full findings and details of the assessment are included after the table in this chapter.

Table 3 Summary of findings for Queensland

Output	Performance milestones	Key performance indicators	Due date/Finding
Water Recovery	1. Transform entitlements as appropriate, work to support the Commonwealth to meet the remaining bridging-the-gap commitments, and progress water recovery towards the 450 gigalitres via efficiency measures through a greater focus on off-farm projects that deliver neutral or positive socio-economic outcomes for communities	1 a. Work with the Commonwealth on water recovery projects, including setting up governance arrangements and schedules as appropriate, conducting outreach and engagement with irrigation networks and transforming entitlements as appropriate	31 March 2022 KPI met
		1 b. Proactively provide support and advice on possible approaches and projects to bridge-the-gap under the Off-Farm Efficiency Program arrangements, or other arrangements	31 March 2022 KPI met
Coordinated environmental water use	2. Deliver an agreed Basin-wide Environmental Water Protection Strategy and Implementation Plan	2 a. Through the Environmental Water Committee (EWC), define and agree a workplan of priority collaborative activities to deliver the Environmental Water Protection Strategy, where relevant to the jurisdiction	31 March 2022 KPI met
		3. Improve environmental watering plans and strategies, including by updating Long-Term Watering Plans (LTWPs) within agreed timeframes	31 March 2022 KPI met
		3 a. Engage with all stakeholders, in the development of annual environmental water plans or priorities; and in the implementation, review and update of LTWPs, where relevant to the jurisdiction	31 March 2022 KPI met

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Output	Performance milestones	Key performance indicators	Due date/Finding
Implementation of the Basin Plan	4. Contribute to delivery of the MDBA-led Sustainable Diversion Limit (SDL) Accounting Framework Improvement Strategy 2020–25 workplan, including supplying data and quality assurance documentation	4 a. Contribute to developing a workplan to implement the SDL Accounting Framework Improvement Strategy 2020–25, led by the MDBA and agreed by BOC Alternates (BOCA)	31 March 2022 KPI met
		4 b. Implement the SDL Accounting Framework Improvement Strategy workplan led by the MDBA, as relevant to the jurisdiction.	31 March 2022 KPI met
	5. Ensure state water planning frameworks that are included in Water Resource Plans (WRPs) remain consistent with the Basin Plan	5 a. Submit amendments to WRPs to the Commonwealth for approval where state water planning frameworks in WRPs become inconsistent with the Basin Plan	31 March 2022 KPI met
		6. Deliver required Basin Plan monitoring, evaluation, science and reporting	6 a. Deliver Basin Plan reporting under Schedule 12, including reporting under Matters 8, 12, 18 and 19 and 21 (compliance with WRPs, such as but not limited to Parts 4, 6, 14)
	6 b. Deliver on agreed strategic activities under the Basin Monitoring Evaluation and Reporting Working Group annual work plan as endorsed by BOCA		31 March 2022 KPI met
	Water market improvement	7. Improve water market trading arrangements across the Basin	7 a. Contribute to the development of a road map for Murray–Darling Basin water market reform in response to the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) report
Improved compliance and reporting	8. Implement revised Metrological Assurance Framework (MAF2)	8 a. Develop an implementation plan that integrates MAF2 requirements into the state’s metering compliance plan/policy	31 March 2022 KPI met
		9. Work with the Inspector-General of Water Compliance (IGWC) to provide clear compliance arrangements and reporting in the Murray–Darling Basin	9 a. Contribute to the establishment of MoUs and/or protocols with the IGWC where relevant to the jurisdiction
	9 b. Provide input to the IGWC on the development of standards and guidelines		31 March 2022 KPI met
	9 c. Report to the IGWC against MAF2 Chapter 15 at least annually or in accordance with IGWC guidelines		31 March 2022 KPI met
		9 d. Provide performance data to the IGWC subject to agreed reporting guidelines (annually)	31 March 2022 KPI met

Output	Performance milestones	Key performance indicators	Due date/Finding
	10. Response to the Compliance Compact Review.	10 a. Develop a set of metrics to be used to communicate and report on water compliance performance and effort across the Basin.	31 March 2022 KPI met
	11. Compliance Compact oversight	11 a. Provide information to the IGWC as requested and in accordance with agreed MoU/guidelines to enable oversight of Compliance Compact commitments	31 March 2022 KPI met.
Enhanced and coordinated consultation and engagement with all Basin communities	12. Improve consultation and strategic engagement in collaboration with the Commonwealth and other Basin governments	12 a. Report on improvements made on strategic consultation, engagement and coordination with Basin communities, in collaboration with the Commonwealth and other Basin governments	31 March 2022 KPI met

3.2 Full findings

3.2.1 Water recovery

Transform entitlements as appropriate, work to support the Commonwealth to meet the remaining bridging-the-gap commitments, and progress water recovery towards the 450 gigalitres via efficiency measures through a greater focus on off-farm projects that deliver neutral or positive socio-economic outcomes for communities.

Queensland met this commitment.

Queensland has been working with the Australian Government via a steering committee to consider options to bridge-the-gap in the Condamine–Balonne this includes Queensland assisting the Commonwealth to better understand the voluntary recovery proposal, associated with Cubbie Station.

In addition, Queensland provided support and advice on possible approaches to bridge-the-gap under the Off-Farm Efficiency Program and other arrangements including detailed advice and data to support the Australian Government-led Queensland Water Recovery Options Project. Queensland has participated in weekly project steering committee meetings and provided relevant information and detailed feedback on the draft Queensland Water Recovery Options Paper.

3.2.2 Coordinated environmental water use

Deliver an agreed Basin-wide Environmental Water Protection Strategy and Implementation Plan

Queensland met this commitment.

Queensland has contributed to these priority strategies and plans and is working through any issues collaboratively via the Environmental Water Committee (EWC) and the Northern Basin Environmental Watering Group. This includes work on the EWC annual stocktake of progress for implementing environmental water protection measures.

Queensland provided background material and updates towards delivery of the Environmental Water Protection Implementation Plan, and participated in the workshop at EWC Meeting 5, as part of the first annual review of environmental water protection measures.

Queensland is also participating in a working group of jurisdiction representatives to consider collaborative activities to contribute to the delivery of the Environmental Water Protection Strategy.

Improve environmental watering plans and strategies including by updating Long-Term Watering Plans (LTWPs) within agreed timeframes

Queensland met this commitment.

Queensland has been working with the Authority on updates to their LTWPs. Queensland sought advice from the MDBA prior to updating the LTWPs. These final drafts were submitted to the MDBA prior to 30 June 2022 for final review and comment. These reports are in the process of being published.

In terms of the Annual Environmental Watering Priorities, the description provided by Queensland on their engagement activities on developing the 2021–22 Annual Environmental Watering Priorities reflects the MDBA’s understanding and is consistent with the requirements of the KPI.

3.2.3 Implementation of the Basin Plan

Contribute to delivery of the MDBA-led Sustainable Diversion Limit (SDL) Accounting Framework Improvement Strategy 2020–2025 workplan, including supplying data and quality assurance documentation

Queensland met this commitment.

Queensland supported and participated in every activity to develop and implement a workplan for the SDL Accounting Framework Improvement Strategy 2020–2025.

Queensland held discussions on the SDL Accounting Framework Improvement Strategy in November 2021, including on the progress of the SDL Accounting Framework Improvement Strategy relevant to Queensland.

Detailed discussions on requirements from Basin states to the implementation of the workplan will be discussed at a Basin states workshop planned for later in 2022.

Ensure state water planning frameworks that are included in the Water Resources Plans (WRPs) remain consistent with the Basin Plan

Queensland met this commitment.

Queensland have made changes to state planning instruments since its WRPs were accredited. The Queensland government is now seeking advice from the Authority and the Inspector-General on whether these changes are substantive enough to require a formal amendment to the accreditation. The Authority is considering this by analysing the changes to operations licenses and the water management protocols.

Deliver required Basin Plan monitoring, evaluation, science and reporting

Queensland met this commitment.

Queensland submitted its annual 2020–21 Schedule 12 reporting by 31 October 2021. The reporting submitted was in accordance with the 2020–21 Schedule 12 reporting guidance provided by the Authority.

Queensland participated in discussions related to the development of reporting guidance for 5 yearly Schedule 12 Matters (8, 12, 18) through the Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (MER) Working Group. These reports are due to be submitted to the Authority by 31 October 2024. Matter 19 was provided to the Inspector-General via the Authority.

In addition, Queensland has been actively engaged through formal and informal processes to progress the implementation of the MER Working Group Annual Workplan KPI's for 2021.

3.2.4 Water market improvement

Improve water market trading arrangements across the Basin

Queensland met this commitment.

The Queensland Government continues to engage with the Basin Water Market Officials Working Group on development and design of the roadmap for Murray–Darling Basin water market reform. This includes active participation in all working group meetings and provision of detailed advice, data and feedback on discussion papers and issues raised for discussion.

3.2.5 Improved compliance and reporting

Implement revised Meteorological Assurance Framework (MAF2)

Queensland met this commitment.

The Queensland Government developed a draft implementation plan that identifies timeframes and criteria for implementing new metering and meter revalidation requirements in the Queensland Murray–Darling Basin. This will integrate MAF2 requirements where this is appropriate for Queensland's regulatory framework. This plan will be publicly available to support the public release of the final measurement policy later in 2022.

Work with the Inspector-General of Water Compliance (IGWC) to provide clear compliance arrangements and reporting in the Murray–Darling Basin

Queensland met this commitment.

The Queensland Government continues to provide input as required into the development of standards and guidelines. Queensland anticipates that the development of the standards and guidelines will be supported by an MoU once it is finalised.

No input was requested by the Inspector-General on input for the development of standards and guidelines.

Queensland will report as required to relevant Australian Government agencies, including the Inspector-General, on metering in the Queensland Murray–Darling Basin, consistent with MAF2 requirements. Queensland anticipates that development of agreed reporting guidelines and timeframes will be supported by an MoU once it is finalised.

The Queensland Government is a party to the Murray–Darling Basin Compliance Compact. To meet compact commitment 1.2c, the Queensland Government reports on the compliance and enforcement actions it has undertaken. The Compliance and Enforcement Actions Report 2020–21 was published in September 2021. Enhancements to Queensland’s compliance case management system have allowed for more detailed reporting including location of alleged offences by Water Plan area and timeliness of compliance response.

Response to the Compliance Compact Review

Queensland met this commitment.

As with Queensland’s response to KPI 9.d, the state publishes the Compliance and Enforcements Actions Report 2020–21, which satisfies the requirement for development of a set of reporting metrics.

Compliance Compact oversight

Queensland met this commitment.

No information requested by the Inspector-General during the reporting period.

3.2.6 Enhanced and coordinated consultation and engagement with all the Basin communities

Improve consultation and strategic engagement in collaboration with the Commonwealth and other Basin governments

Queensland met this commitment.

The Queensland Government continues to engage widely with community, industry and other jurisdictions to support implementation of the Basin Plan in Queensland. Queensland uses multiple channels for consultation and engagement ranging from high-level multi-sector engagement with peak industry bodies and other key stakeholders, through to open community forums, targeted engagement with affected stakeholder groups, and one-on-one client interactions. Queensland actively participates in Murray–Darling Basin interjurisdictional communication and engagement forums as well as on-ground engagement including the Listening Tour of the Lower Balonne with Australian Government agencies and key stakeholders in March 2022.

4 Assessment for South Australia

4.1 Summary of findings

South Australia has met all its key performance indicators (KPIs) and made satisfactory progress under the Schedule.

The milestones and key performance indicators for South Australia are set out in the second and third columns of Table 4 below. Findings for South Australia’s performance against the KPIs are summarised in column four in the order they appear in the original Schedule. Full findings and details of the assessment are included after the table in this chapter.

Table 4 Summary of findings for South Australia

Output	Performance milestones	Key performance indicators	Due date/Finding
Water Recovery	1. Transform entitlements as appropriate, work to support the Commonwealth to meet the remaining bridging-the-gap commitments, and progress water recovery towards the 450 gigalitres via efficiency measures through a greater focus on off-farm projects that deliver neutral or positive socio-economic outcomes for communities	1 a. Work with the Commonwealth on water recovery projects, including setting up governance arrangements and schedules as appropriate, conducting outreach and engagement with irrigation networks and transforming entitlements as appropriate	31 March 2022 KPI met
		1 b. Submit applications for the Off-Farm Efficiency Program under state-led arrangements to meet legislative delivery timeframes using the Ministerial Council stocktake as a starting point. Business case applications will include socio-economic analysis and proposals for transfer of water entitlements	31 March 2022 KPI met
Coordinated environmental water use	2. Deliver an agreed Basin-wide Environmental Water Protection Strategy and Implementation Plan	2 a. Through the Environmental Water Committee (EWC), define and agree a work plan of priority collaborative activities to deliver the Environmental Water Protection Strategy, where relevant to the jurisdiction	31 March 2022 KPI met
		3 a. Engage with all stakeholders, in the development of annual environmental water plans or priorities; and in the implementation, review and update of LTWPs, where relevant to the jurisdiction	31 March 2022 KPI met

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Output	Performance milestones	Key performance indicators	Due date/Finding
Implementation of the Basin Plan	4. Implement the Sustainable Diversion Limit Adjustment Mechanism (SDLAM) program, where not funded under other agreements	4 a. Actively work with the Commonwealth to optimise and address risks to SDLAM program outcomes, including: - establishment of a process to formally amend project scope - resolution of critical policy issues to enable agreement to Stage 2 funding arrangements - fast-tracking relevant projects - investigating the potential for existing, enhanced projects to contribute to Basin Plan outcomes	31 March 2022 KPI met
		4 b. Identify, develop and progress required changes to the River Murray Operations Framework and Murray–Darling Basin Agreement. Any changes are to be agreed by all jurisdictions	31 March 2022 KPI met
		4 c. Work with the MDBA and participate in the reconciliation process, including the application of the reconciliation adjustment default method set out in Schedule 6 of the Basin Plan, or the development of an alternative method that is requested by Basin Officials Committee (BOC) and the Authority under s7.15(2)(b); and the provision of relevant supporting information	31 March 2022 KPI met
	5. Contribute to delivery of the MDBA-led Sustainable Diversion Limit (SDL) Accounting Framework Improvement Strategy 2020–25 workplan, including supplying data and quality assurance documentation	5 a. Contribute to developing a workplan to implement the SDL Accounting Framework Improvement Strategy 2020–25, led by the MDBA and agreed by BOC Alternates (BOCA)	31 March 2022 KPI met
		5 b. Implement the SDL Accounting Framework Improvement Strategy workplan led by the MDBA, as relevant to the jurisdiction	31 March 2022 KPI met
	6. Ensure State water planning frameworks that are included in Water Resource Plans (WRPs) remain consistent with the Basin Plan	6 a. Submit amendments to WRPs to the Commonwealth for approval where state water planning frameworks in WRPs become inconsistent with the Basin Plan	31 March 2022 KPI met
	7. Deliver required Basin Plan monitoring, evaluation, science and reporting	7 a. Deliver Basin Plan reporting under Schedule 12, including reporting under Matters 8, 12, 18 and 19 and 21 (compliance with WRPs, such as but not limited to Parts 4, 6, 14)	31 March 2022 KPI met

Basin state performance assessment: Implementing Water Reform in the Murray–Darling Basin

Output	Performance milestones	Key performance indicators	Due date/Finding
		7 b. Deliver on agreed strategic activities under the Basin Monitoring Evaluation and Reporting Working Group annual work plan as endorsed by BOCA	31 March 2022 KPI met
Water market improvement	8. Improve water market trading arrangements across the Basin	8 a. Contribute to the development of a road map for Murray–Darling Basin water market reform in response to the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) report	31 March 2022 KPI met
Improved compliance and reporting	9. Implement revised Metrological Assurance Framework (MAF2)	9 a. Develop an implementation plan that integrates MAF2 requirements into the state’s metering compliance plan/policy	31 March 2022 KPI met
	10. Work with the Inspector-General of Water Compliance (IGWC) to provide clear compliance arrangements and reporting in the Murray–Darling Basin	10 a. Contribute to the establishment of MoUs and/or protocols with the IGWC where relevant to the jurisdiction	31 March 2022 KPI met
		10 b. Provide input to the IGWC on the development of standards and guidelines	31 March 2022 KPI met
		10 c. Report to the IGWC against MAF2 Chapter 15 at least annually or in accordance with IGWC guidelines	31 March 2022 KPI met
		10 d. Provide performance data to the IGWC subject to agreed reporting guidelines (annually)	31 March 2022 KPI met
	11. Response to the Compliance Compact Review	11 a. Develop a set of metrics to be used to communicate and report on water compliance performance and effort across the Basin	31 March 2022 KPI met
12. Compliance Compact oversight	12 a. Provide information to the IGWC as requested and in accordance with agreed MoU/guidelines to enable oversight of Compliance Compact commitments	31 March 2022 KPI met	
Enhanced and coordinated consultation and engagement with all Basin communities	13. Improve consultation and strategic engagement in collaboration with the Commonwealth and other Basin governments	13 a. Report on improvements made on strategic consultation, engagement and coordination with Basin communities, in collaboration with the Commonwealth and other Basin governments	31 March 2022 KPI met

4.2 Full findings

4.2.1 Water recovery

Transform entitlements as appropriate, work to support the Commonwealth to meet the remaining bridging-the-gap commitments, and progress water recovery towards the 450 gigalitres via efficiency measures through a greater focus on off-farm projects that deliver neutral or positive socio-economic outcomes for communities

South Australia met this commitment.

South Australia participates in the Commonwealth led Efficiency Measures Working Group and is working with the Commonwealth to finalise projects under the Water Efficiency Program (WEP) and to develop funding agreements for new projects. Under the WEP, 28 South Australian projects were approved by the Australian Government. South Australia is working with approved participants to complete project works and return water savings to the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder.

South Australia has lodged and continues to develop funding applications for a range of project proposals including opportunities identified in the Alternative Water Supplies Efficiency Measures feasibility study. The former department, DAWE, liaised with the South Australian Government on additional Metropolitan Adelaide alternative water supply projects under the Off-Farm Efficiency Program.

4.2.2 Coordinated environmental water use

Deliver an agreed Basin-wide Environmental Water Protection Strategy and Implementation Plan

South Australia met this commitment.

South Australia contributed to progressing priority strategies and plans and has been involved in the Environmental Water Committee (EWC) annual stock take of progress for implementing environmental water protection measures.

South Australia provided background material and updates towards the delivery of the Environmental Water Protection Implementation Plan and participated in a workshop at EWC Meeting 5 as part of the first annual review of environmental water protection measures. The workshop generated advice for the Basin Officials Committee (BOC) on progress, priorities and gaps in the delivery of the Environmental Water Protection Strategy and Implementation Plan. South Australia is also leading a jurisdiction working group to collaborate on activities for delivery of the Environmental Water Protection Strategy.

South Australia established a Prerequisite Policy Measures working group (now renamed E-Water Policy Steering Committee), which is involved in Prerequisite Policy Measures implementation and adaptive management within the state.

Improve environmental watering plans and strategies including by updating Long-Term Water Plans (LTWPs) within agreed timeframes

South Australia met this commitment.

In terms of LTWPs, there were no deliverables for the 2021–22 reporting period. The South Australian Murray Region plans were due in August 2020, and the South Australian River Murray and Eastern Mount Lofty plans were due November 2020. All three plans were submitted within agreed timeframes.

The South Australian Government undertook extensive consultation in the preparation of the initial LTWPs. This included key regional stakeholder groups, the MDBA, environmental water holders and Aboriginal representative bodies. Consultation for the 2020 updates focused on specific updates and was limited to key stakeholders. At this stage, there are no further updates required for any of the South Australia plans.

The description provided by South Australia regarding their engagement on developing 2021–22 Annual Environmental Watering Priorities reflects the MDBA’s understanding and is consistent with the requirements of the KPI.

4.2.3 Implementation of the Basin Plan

Implement the Sustainable Diversion Limit Adjustment Mechanism (SDLAM) program, where not funded under other agreements

South Australia met this commitment.

South Australia contributed to the elements listed under this indicator. South Australia has contributed to SDLAM Implementation Committee (SDLAMIC), BOC and BOC Alternatives (BOCA). It participated in the establishment of a process to amend project scope and in forums to resolve critical policy issues for the SDLAM. South Australia brought forward a proposal to fast-track the South Australian River Murray constraints program and advised that it is investigating whether existing notified supply projects could be enhanced.

Changes to the Murray Operations Framework and the MDB Agreement have not been brought forward for supply and constraints measures, so South Australia has not had the opportunity to consider changes.

South Australia has contributed to the Authority’s assurance process and in the development of the Riverine Recovery Project completion arrangements. It also supported work for the establishment of a Technical Working Group and the process for notification amendments and participated in the development of the SDLAM action plan.

Contribute to delivery of the MDBA-led Sustainable Diversion Limit (SDL) Accounting Framework Improvement Strategy 2020–2025 workplan, including supplying data and quality assurance documentation

South Australia met this commitment.

South Australia supported and participated in every activity for development and implementation of a workplan for the SDL Accounting Framework Improvement Strategy 2020–2025.

The MDBA met with South Australia for discussions on the SDL Accounting Framework Improvement Strategy in November 2021. Progress of the strategy at the end of Tranche 1 was discussed. The MDBA scheduled a further meeting to discuss the progress of the workplan in May 2022 through the Surface Water Advisory Panel. The workplan will be finalised by the Authority.

Ensure state water planning frameworks that are included in the Water Resources Plans (WRPs) remain consistent with the Basin Plan

South Australia met this commitment.

No amendments were submitted. The Authority is aware that changes have been made to South Australia’s state instruments that are included in WRPs.

Deliver required Basin Plan monitoring, evaluation, science and reporting

South Australia met this commitment.

South Australia submitted its annual 2020–21 Schedule 12 reporting to the MDBA by 31 October 2021 in accordance with the 2020–21 Schedule 12 reporting guidance.

South Australia has been participating in discussions related to the development of reporting guidance for 5 yearly Schedule 12 Matters (8, 12, 18) through the Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (MER) Working Group. These reports are due to be submitted to the MDBA by 31 October 2024. Matter 19 reports were provided to the Inspector-General via the Authority.

South Australia has been engaged through formal and informal processes to progress implementation of the MER Working Group Annual Workplan KPI’s for 2021.

4.2.4 Water market improvement

Improve water market trading arrangements across the Basin

South Australia met this commitment.

South Australia is contributing to development of the road map with the Principal Adviser, the Commonwealth, Basin governments and stakeholders. Key South Australian stakeholders are being engaged to provide their perspectives on recommendations included in the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) water markets inquiry final report.

South Australia has been responsive and timely to all requests for information and attendance at meetings.

4.2.5 Improved compliance and reporting

Implement revised Meteorological Assurance Framework (MAF2)

South Australia met this commitment.

Work on the implementation plan is well progressed. Work to date includes performing a gap analysis of MAF2 rules (70) and guidelines (91) against South Australia's metering compliance plan/policy and development of a series of recommendations that will be incorporated into the implementation plan. The gap analysis was completed in February 2022 and the analysis is currently under internal review. The draft MAF2 implementation plan is approximately 75% progressed.

Work with the Inspector-General of Water Compliance (IGWC) to provide clear compliance arrangements and reporting in the Murray–Darling Basin

South Australia met this commitment.

South Australia has actively contributed within required timeframes to all requests from the Inspector-General in relation to the development of MoUs.

The Inspector-General has made no requests for South Australia to contribute to the development of standards and guidelines to date.

The 2020–21 annual report for MAF2 Chapter 15 has been published on the South Australia Department for Environment and Water’s website. The IGWC has been advised of the publication of the report.

Performance reporting is part of the 'Water Compliance Performance Reporting' project being led by a consultant, Alluvium, working for the Inspector-General. Annual data is not yet required as metrics are still being worked through.

Response to the Compliance Compact Review

South Australia met this commitment.

South Australia has contributed and responded to all requests for input to the 'Water Compliance Performance Reporting' being led by the consultant, Alluvium, for the Inspector-General. This includes participation in meetings, forums and workshops as required. The work is not expected to be completed by 30 June 2022 as South Australia is waiting for IGWC to progress the work.

Compliance Compact oversight

South Australia met this commitment.

No request for input has been made by the IGWC during the reporting period.

4.2.6 Enhanced and coordinated consultation and engagement with all the Basin communities

Improve consultation and strategic engagement in collaboration with the Commonwealth and other Basin governments

South Australia met this commitment.

South Australia participates in interjurisdictional forums focused on agreeing the approaches for strategic level communications and engagement. Examples of South Australia’s involvement include contributing to public facing messaging on the status of implementation of the SDL Adjustment Mechanism that is published quarterly; active participation in the Water for the Environment communications working group hosted by the Commonwealth Environmental Water Office; and supporting South Australia’s First Nations to provide their stories in the ‘Rivers, the veins of our Country’ publication.

South Australia reports that it has also commenced a project to review and update its water-related content on their departmental website. During 2021 South Australia and the MDBA delivered engagement sessions in South Australia to discuss the issue of managing delivery risks in the River Murray System.

5 Assessment for the Australian Capital Territory

5.1 Summary of findings

The Australian Capital Territory has met all its key performance indicators (KPIs).

The milestones and KPIs for the ACT are set out in the second and third columns of Table 5 below. Findings for ACT's performance against the KPIs are summarised in column four in the order they appear in the original Schedule. Full findings and details of the assessment are included after the table in this chapter.

Table 5 Summary of findings for Australian Capital Territory

Output	Performance milestones	Key performance indicators	Finding
Water Recovery	1. Transform entitlements as appropriate, work to support the Commonwealth to meet the remaining bridging-the-gap commitments, and progress water recovery towards the 450 gegalitres via efficiency measures through a greater focus on off-farm projects that deliver neutral or positive socio-economic outcomes for communities	1 a. Work with the Commonwealth on water recovery projects, including setting up governance arrangements and schedules as appropriate, conducting outreach and engagement with irrigation networks and transforming entitlements as appropriate	31 March 2022 KPI met
Coordinated environmental water use	2. Deliver an agreed Basin-wide Environmental Water Protection Strategy and Implementation Plan	2 a. Through the Environmental Water Committee EWC), define and agree a work plan of priority collaborative activities to deliver the Environmental Water Protection Strategy, where relevant to the jurisdiction	31 March 2022 KPI met
	3. Improve environmental watering plans and strategies, including by updating Long-Term Watering Plans (LTWPs) within agreed timeframes	3 a. Engage with all stakeholders, in the development of annual environmental water plans or priorities; and in the implementation, review and update of LTWPs, where relevant to the jurisdiction	31 March 2022 KPI met
Implementation of the Basin Plan	4. Implement the Sustainable Diversion Limit Adjustment Mechanism (SDLAM) program, where not funded under other agreements	4 a. Identify, develop and progress required changes to the River Murray Operations Framework and Murray–Darling Basin Agreement relevant to the ACT. Any changes are to be agreed by all jurisdictions	31 March 2022 KPI met

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Output	Performance milestones	Key performance indicators	Finding
		4 b. Work with the MDBA and participate in the reconciliation process, including the application of the reconciliation adjustment default method set out in Schedule 6 of the Basin Plan, or the development of an alternative method that is requested by Basin Officials Committee (BOC) and the Authority under s7.15(2)(b); and the provision of relevant supporting information	31 March 2022 KPI met
	5. Contribute to delivery of the MDBA-led Sustainable Diversion Limit (SDL) Accounting Framework Improvement Strategy 2020–25 workplan, including supplying data and quality assurance documentation	5 a. Contribute to developing a workplan to implement the SDL Accounting Framework Improvement Strategy 2020–25, led by the MDBA and agreed by BOC Alternates (BOCA)	31 March 2022 KPI met
		5 b. Implement the SDL Accounting Framework Improvement Strategy workplan led by the MDBA, as relevant to the jurisdiction	31 March 2022 KPI met
	6. Ensure state water planning frameworks that are included in Water Resource Plans (WRPs) remain consistent with the Basin Plan	6 a. Submit amendments to WRPs to the Commonwealth for approval where state water planning frameworks in WRPs become inconsistent with the Basin Plan	31 March 2022 KPI met
	7. Deliver required Basin Plan monitoring, evaluation, science and reporting	7 a. Deliver Basin Plan reporting under Schedule 12, including reporting under Matters 8, 12, 18 and 19 and 21 (compliance with WRPs, such as but not limited to Parts 4, 6, 14)	31 March 2022 KPI met
		7 b. Deliver on agreed strategic activities under the Basin Monitoring Evaluation and Reporting Working Group annual work plan as endorsed by BOCA.	31 March 2022 KPI met.
Water market improvement	8. Improve water market trading arrangements across the Basin	8 a. Contribute to the development of a road map for Murray–Darling Basin water market reform in response to the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) report	31 March 2022 KPI met
	9. Establish two-way entitlement and allocation trade between the ACT and NSW, to ensure protection of future environmental water downstream from the ACT	9 a. Implement the agreed work plan to establish a transfer and trade mechanism with NSW, noting that establishment of this mechanism is to be in accordance with the principles agreed on 01/09/2021	31 March 2022 KPI met
Improved compliance and reporting	10. Implement revised Metrological Assurance Framework (MAF2)	10 a. Develop an implementation plan that integrates MAF2 requirements into the state’s metering compliance plan/policy	31 March 2022 KPI met

Output	Performance milestones	Key performance indicators	Finding
	11. Work with the Inspector-General of Water Compliance (IGWC) to provide clear compliance arrangements and reporting in the Murray–Darling Basin	11 a. Contribute to the establishment of MoUs and/or protocols with the IGWC where relevant to the jurisdiction	31 March 2022 KPI met
		11 b. Provide input to the IGWC on the development of standards and guidelines	31 March 2022 KPI met
		11 c. Report to the IGWC against MAF2 Chapter 15 at least annually or in accordance with IGWC guidelines	31 March 2022 KPI met
		11 d. Provide performance data to the IGWC subject to agreed reporting guidelines (annually)	31 March 2022 KPI met
	12. Response to the Compliance Compact Review	12 a. Develop a set of metrics to be used to communicate and report on water compliance performance and effort across the Basin	31 March 2022 KPI met
	13. Compliance Compact oversight	13 a. Provide information to the IGWC as requested and in accordance with agreed MoU/guidelines to enable oversight of Compliance Compact commitments	31 March 2022 KPI met
Enhanced and coordinated consultation and engagement with all Basin communities	14. Improve consultation and strategic engagement in collaboration with the Commonwealth and other Basin governments	14 a. Report on improvements made on strategic consultation, engagement and coordination with Basin communities, in collaboration with the Commonwealth and other Basin governments	31 March 2022 KPI met

5.2 Full findings

5.2.1 Water recovery

Transform entitlements as appropriate, work to support the Commonwealth to meet the remaining bridging-the-gap commitments, and progress water recovery towards the 450 gigalitres via efficiency measures through a greater focus on off-farm projects that deliver neutral or positive socio-economic outcomes for communities

The ACT met this commitment.

The ACT has been scoping and consulting on a package of urban water efficiency measures with the Australian Government. The proposed package of urban water efficiency measures has undergone extensive analysis and consultation across ACT Directorates, Icon Water and key stakeholders. Government consultation on the measures was delayed during early 2021–22 due to a focus on responding to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Notwithstanding these delays, the department is engaged with ACT representatives to workshop outstanding issues. The agreed feasibility studies and business case development activities remain under negotiation with several outstanding issues that need to be resolved before projects can be

put forward for consideration. ACT officials are being encouraged to consider a revised funding approach and options for potential urban water efficiency projects. Revisions must meet requirements for the Off-Farm Efficiency Program/funding or for bridging-the-gap entitlements.

5.2.2 Coordinated environmental water use

Deliver an agreed Basin-wide Environmental Water Protection Strategy and Implementation Plan

The ACT met this commitment.

The ACT have been involved in Environmental Water Committee (EWC) discussions in relation to the Environmental Water Protection Strategy and Implementation Plan. The ACT has engaged in the process in good faith, where the matters discussed at EWC under the Environmental Water Protection Strategy are relevant to the territory.

Improve environmental watering plans and strategies including by updating Long-Term Watering Plans (LTWPs) within agreed timeframes

The ACT met this commitment.

During 2021–22, the Authority reviewed and accepted the ACT’s Environmental Flow Guidelines (EFGs) as an interim plan. The ACT and the Authority agreed to work together to ensure the revised guidelines address the LTWP requirements in Chapter 8 of the Basin Plan. The Authority is confident that the revised guidelines will address the necessary requirements, including engagement with relevant stakeholders. As part of revising the LTWP requirements, the Authority and the ACT will also review the process for identifying annual watering priorities.

5.2.3 Implementation of the Basin Plan

Implement the Sustainable Diversion Limit Adjustment Mechanism (SDLAM) program, where not funded under other agreements

The ACT met this commitment.

The ACT has not been requested to participate in changes to the MDB Agreement specific to the SDLAM program. Engagement by the ACT will occur through Basin Officials Committee (BOC) and BOC Alternates (BOCA). The changes to the River Operations Framework and MDB Agreement have limited relevance to the ACT.

The ACT has worked with the Authority and Basin states in the review of Schedule D to the MDB Agreement. ACT staff resource has been assigned to engage in this work. Participation has been through the Trade Working Group and bilaterally with the Authority’s water trading section. This work is important to progress ACT–NSW water trading arrangements and active engagement will continue.

The ACT has engaged in the SDLAM through BOCA and BOC including participation in a workshop on addressing Sustainable Diversion Limit (SDL) shortfalls. The ACT sought the Authority’s advice and agreement on a proposed engagement approach to target the ACT’s participation in the SDLAM, where most relevant.

Contribute to delivery of the MDBA-led SDL Accounting Framework Improvement Strategy 2020–2025 workplan, including supplying data and quality assurance documentation

The ACT met this commitment.

The ACT has participated in multi-jurisdictional discussions about the framework and future implementation. The ACT attends the Surface Water Advisory Panel (SAP) and Ground Water Advisory Panel (GAP) meetings where accounting issues are discussed at a technical level.

The ACT has begun implementing accounting improvements projects as outlined in their response including recognition of cultural flows.

Ensure state water planning frameworks that are included in the Water Resources Plans (WRPs) remain consistent with the Basin Plan

The ACT met this commitment

The ACT should be well-placed to come forward with amendments in the future. The Authority has provided advice and assistance and will continue to provide support as needed.

Deliver required Basin Plan monitoring, evaluation, science and reporting

The ACT met this commitment.

The ACT submitted its annual 2020–21 Schedule 12 reporting to the Authority by 31 October 2021.

The ACT participated in discussions on the development of reporting guidance for 5 yearly Schedule 12 Matters (8, 12, 18) through the Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (MER) Working Group. These reports are due to be submitted to the Authority on 31 October 2024. The Matter 19 report was provided to the Inspector-General via Authority. The quality of the content in the report is considered low value.

The ACT has been actively engaged through formal and informal processes to progress the implementation of the MER Working Group Annual Workplan KPI's for 2021, including providing response and advice on document development and reviews.

5.2.4 Water market improvement

Improve water market trading arrangements across the Basin

The ACT met this commitment.

The ACT has engaged in regular workshops facilitated by the Authority for developing the roadmap for water market reform. The ACT provided advice for the preparation of, and to endorse, the water market reform measures identified in the December Advice to guide the Water Market Reform Roadmap.

Establish two-way allocation and entitlement trade between the ACT and NSW to ensure protection of future environmental water downstream from the ACT

The ACT met this commitment.

A team is being recruited to support the work plan. Activities to progress ACT–NSW water trading in 2021–22 include analysis of water eligible for trade, independently peer-reviewed by eWater. The analysis and peer review will be provided to NSW.

The ACT provided data requested from NSW to support assessment of risk to third parties/water resource. A risk assessment workshop is being scheduled being a key deliverable of the agreed workplan. A project plan for delivering water trading arrangements within the ACT is in draft and subject to approval.

5.2.5 Improved compliance and reporting

Implement revised Meteorological Assurance Framework (MAF2)

The ACT met this commitment.

The ACT engaged with the Inspector-General on the environmental scan, evaluating current water metering and compliance. A draft report is available and recommendations from this will inform the development of the implementation plan.

Work with the Inspector-General of Water Compliance (IGWC) to provide clear compliance arrangements and reporting in the Murray–Darling Basin

The ACT met this commitment.

The Environmental Protection Authority represented the ACT at the Regulatory Leaders Forum and coordinated the ACT's initial input on the memorandum of understanding (MoU). An increase to ACT's resourcing will now enable further engagement with the Inspector-General on water metering and compliance matters.

Input on the development of standards and guidelines was not requested during this period. The ACT fulfilled routine reporting requirements on MAF2 chapter 15. The Inspector-General has not requested performance data to date.

Response to the Compliance Compact Review

The ACT met this commitment.

The Inspector-General and the department met with the ACT and have been advising the ACT's new metering policy development team about the obligations from both the Compliance Compact and the MAF2. The ACT is currently assessing its approach to metering thresholds and conducting a census of the water licenses to make sure their approach is appropriate to the risks involved.

Compliance Compact oversight

The ACT met this commitment.

The Inspector-General did not request any information during the reporting period.

5.2.6 Enhanced and coordinated consultation and engagement with all the Basin communities

Improve consultation and strategic engagement in collaboration with the Commonwealth and other Basin governments

The ACT met this commitment.

The ACT facilitated opportunities for community engagement on the Basin Plan and water management activities in the upper Murrumbidgee region including engagement between the MDBA and the Upper Murrumbidgee Community Network. The ACT coordinated submissions made to the NSW Natural Resource Commission on the NSW Water Sharing Plan for the Unregulated Murrumbidgee River. The ACT recruited a Ngunnawal Water Policy Officer to support Aboriginal engagement on water planning and policy in the ACT and surrounding region. A program of Aboriginal Waterway Assessments is being scoped to commence in early 2022–23.

List of acronyms

Term	Definition
ACCC	Australian Competition and Consumer Commission
ACT	Australian Capital Territory
BOC	Basin Officials Committee
BOCA	Basin Officials Committee Alternates
CEWO	Commonwealth Environmental Water Office
DELWP	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (Victoria)
DEW	Department of Environment and Water (South Australia)
EWC	Environmental Water Committee
EWIG	Environmental Water Improvement Group
GL	Gigalitres
GMW	Goulburn Murray Water
IGA	Intergovernmental Agreement on Implementing Water Reform in the Murray–Darling Basin
IGWC	Inspector-General of Water Compliance
IRG	Intergovernmental Reference Group
JVMESC	Joint Venture Monitoring and Evaluation Steering Committee
KPI	Key performance indicator
LTWP	Long-term environmental water plan
MDBA	Murray–Darling Basin Authority
MER	Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting
MEWG	Monitoring and Evaluation Working Group
MinCo	Murray–Darling Basin Ministerial Council
NPA	National Partnership Agreement on Implementing Water Reform in the Murray–Darling Basin
NSW	New South Wales
OIGWC	Office of the Inspector-General of Water Compliance
PPM	Prerequisite policy measure
SA	South Australia
SDL	Sustainable diversion limit
SDLAM	Sustainable Diversion Limit Adjustment Mechanism
SDLAMIC	Sustainable Diversion Limit Adjustment Mechanism Implementation Committee
WA	Western Australia
WEP	Water Efficiency Program
WRP	Water resource plan