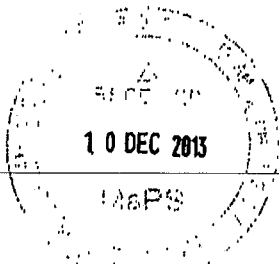


Hon Ian Hunter MLC

MC13-005360



Ref: 13WRM0798

VIP - Part Sec

Min No: C	Link:
Division: WEO	Date:
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RECEIVED - 9 DEC 2013 Environment Parl Sec	
<input type="checkbox"/> Covering Brief	<input type="checkbox"/> Departmental Reply
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<input type="checkbox"/> CoS/Adviser Reply	<input type="checkbox"/> Campaign <input type="checkbox"/> Advice/Min
<input type="checkbox"/> Refer to:.....	



Government of South Australia

Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation

Minister for Water and the River Murray

Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation

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minister.hunter@sa.gov.au

Senator the Hon. Simon Birmingham
Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for the Environment
Parliament House
PO Box 6100
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Senator ^{Simon} Birmingham

I refer to the South Australian Government's obligations under the (Implementation Plan for Augmentation of the Adelaide Desalination Plant.)

I am pleased to provide the attached report on the manner in which the state has met its obligations in 2012-13, which has been provided separately to officers from your department, and which is required to be provided by November 30 each year.

Please note that the report also includes, as an attachment, a copy of written confirmation from the Murray Darling Basin Authority that all water provided to the environment in 2012-13 has been accounted for in the agreed manner and where relevant would be available to contribute towards "bridging the gap" (in respect of sustainable diversion limits under the Basin Plan).

If your officers have any questions on the specific contents of the report, these can be directed to [REDACTED], Director, Water and Climate Change in my department on [REDACTED].

Yours sincerely,

IAN HUNTER MLC

Minister for Water and the River Murray

27/11/2013

ADELAIDE DESALINATION PLANT

Report on Environmental Water Allocations, Use and Outcomes (for the year ended 30 June 2013)

Licence	Account	Nominal Value (GL)	Carryover of Balance (GL)	Allocation		Environmental Use (GL)		Closing Balance (GL)
				%	GL	Planned	Actual	
High Reliability Water Entitlement	SA213146-0-10009	2	-	100	2	2	2	0
Environmental Provision	SA213146-0-10009 ¹	12	-	100	12	12	12	0

Watering Locations:

1. Lower Lakes, Coorong and Murray Mouth

Periods of Watering:

1 Dec 2012 - 30 Jan 2013 (12 GL)

Site Watering Objectives including Expected Ecological Outcomes:

Provide water to keep Lake Alexandrina salinity less than 1,000 EC for the whole year

Provide water for fishways to enable continuous releases for connectivity between the lakes and Coorong

¹ This water has been sourced from allocations associated with SA River Murray class 3a.

Observed Ecological Outcomes:

Lake Alexandrina salinity remained below 1,000 EC for the whole year
There were continuous barrage and fishway releases for the whole year
286,000 waterbirds were observed at the lakes and Coorong
There was an increase in fish diversity in the South Lagoon of the Coorong
Black bream recruitment occurred for the first time since the drought in the North Lagoon of the Coorong

SA Comments:

The Coorong is recovering slowly from the drought. *Ruppia tuberosa*, an important plant species in the Coorong, has not yet recovered and environmental water needs to be provided earlier in spring and maintained for the whole lifecycle of the plant.

Watering Locations:

2. Channel Including Berri Evaporation Basin, Dishers Creek and Bookmark Creek

Periods of Watering:

1 July 2012 - 30 Jan 2013 (2 GL)

Site Watering Objectives including Expected Ecological Outcomes:

Provide dilution volumes to manage salinity and dissolved oxygen levels for the threatened species Murray hardyhead fish in Berri Evaporation Basin and Dishers Creek

Provide flow through Bookmark Creek for fringing vegetation

Observed Ecological Outcomes:

The salinity and dissolved oxygen levels have been maintained within the limits suitable for Murray hardyhead at Berri Evaporation Basin and Dishers Creek. From mid 2012 onwards Murray hardyhead were caught within Berri Evaporation Basin for the first time since spring 2010. Seven fish in total were captured, some of which were juvenile fish. 93 Murray hardyhead were captured in July 2012 and 821 Murray hardyhead were captured in November 2012.

SA Comments:

The Berri Evaporation Basin Murray hardyhead population is considered to be the most stable/healthy population of Murray hardyhead within the Murray-Darling Basin, due to the consistent high numbers of fish captured of varying size class distribution. It is essential to support this site during periods of low flow/high evaporation.