

The Hon Vickie Chapman MP



**Government
of South Australia**

18 January 2019

The Commissioner
Murray-Darling Basin Royal Commission

By email: mdbroyalcommission@mdbrc.sa.gov.au

Deputy Premier

Attorney-General

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Dear Mr Walker

Thank you for your letter.

The State Government believes the Murray-Darling Basin Royal Commission Report should be available to the public at the earliest opportunity and will ensure that occurs.

I note that you take issue with the Government's intended approach to public access to the report and related materials, as outlined in the letter from my department's Chief Executive of 17 January.

While I maintain that those arrangements will be transparent, given how strongly you have expressed the need for the Commission's website to remain operative for some time, I do not propose to quibble about the matter. Although there will be a minimal cost of doing so, I confirm that the Commission's website will remain operative for 12 months.

To a more important matter, you have previously indicated that although you would receive any submissions in respect of illegal take of water, the Commission would not be interfering with any police investigation or State based prosecution. Given that you have now finalised your inquiry, I would appreciate your advice as to whether or not you have referred any matters to investigative or prosecutorial agencies; and, if so, whether there is any action the Government should be taking.

The Government respectfully declines your offer to extend the time for your final report to conduct further work. I note that the cost to date of the Commission is \$5.017m. Extending the Royal Commission would be an unfair burden on South Australian taxpayers given the sum already spent.

The Government looks forward to receiving your report on or before 1 February.

Yours faithfully.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Vickie Chapman', written over a large blue circular stamp or seal.

**VICKIE CHAPMAN MP
DEPUTY PREMIER
ATTORNEY-GENERAL**