

## Murray-Darling Basin Royal Commission Report update

18 January 2019

The Murray-Darling Basin Royal Commission report is being finalised to deliver to the South Australian Governor by 1 February, 2019.

There has been an exchange between the Commissioner, Bret Walker SC, and the Attorney-General's Department (**AGD**) in relation to the public release of the report.

The AGD indicated on 17 January 2019 that the Commissioner's report will be made available on the website for the Department for Environment and Water. The Commission has also been advised that the Commission's website (containing transcripts of hearings, Commission exhibits, and other documents) will remain "live" until 30 March 2019, following which an archived copy of the website will be held by the National Library.

By way of response dated 18 January 2019, the Commissioner:

**ADVISED** that the report should be released immediately after delivery to the Governor as the "public interest demands it";

**CALLED** for the Commission's website to remain available to the public for a year after release of the report to provide key background information and permit full understanding of the Commission's report, and

**ADVISED** he would be willing to accept a limited extension of time for the Commission to consider and report on the recent issues concerning fish kills in the Lower Darling River.

The Commissioner said that "the public expenditure on the Basin Plan (and this Commission) is such that the only legitimate expectation is that my findings, conclusions, recommendations and the reasons for them should all be available to be read, considered and criticised, once I have delivered the report ... The national implications of the report's subject matter are also a reason for the report to be made available for consideration and criticism without delay".

### The relevant correspondence is attached.

Level 9 East, 50 Grenfell Street, Adelaide SA 5000  
GPO Box 1445, Adelaide SA 5001  
**Email:** [mdbroyalcommission@mdbrc.sa.gov.au](mailto:mdbroyalcommission@mdbrc.sa.gov.au)  
**Telephone:** 8207 1483  
**Toll free:** (from landlines) 1800 842 817

**For more information please contact:**  
Catherine Hockley  
Media/Communications Adviser  
**Email:** [Catherine.hockley@mdbrc.sa.gov.au](mailto:Catherine.hockley@mdbrc.sa.gov.au)  
**Mobile:** 0422 524 516

Page 1 of 1