

## MDBA Briefing for SA Conservation groups

CCSA The Joinery 23 August 2017

### Barwon-Darling

- needs 1500 GL for recovery to restore floodplains
- Low public storage in Barwon-Darling (northern Basin), more targeted recovery
- Need toolkit measures in place

From 1 July 2018, MDBA has increased powers for implementation/compliance

### SDLs recovery volume

- Total package: supply measures (650 GL) + efficiency measures (450 GL) + constraints relaxation are critical to delivering benefits of recovery
- advice received by MDBA in June 2016 – if >600 GL is approved for SDLs, no more water recovery required
- if >600 GL recovered, will achieve equivalent outcomes
- test: limits of change are 5%
- 37 nominated projects
- Consultation process from 2 October for 4 weeks
- Advice due from MDBA in December 2017 to MDBMC
- Draft determination to be provided on mechanism for adjustment

### Ernst & Young analysis

- Expert evaluation
- How best to design efficiency measures
- Due to report Dec 2017 to MDBMC

### Presentation by Ben Dyer

- Supply projects include major floodplain works and operational rule changes
- Score – CSIRO method for ecological elements
- Overall score includes trade-offs, apply limits of change to get genuine outcome
- 12 biological elements summarised in framework – *get a copy, see CSIRO report on website*
- Site-specific flow indicators (SFI), about 6 SFIs per reach, includes duration
- 9 reaches assessed
- Preference curves developed for each element
- Baseline = no Basin Plan, Benchmark = BP 2009 (2750 GL)
- Package assessed for outcomes, eg Barmah-Millewa Forest improved
- Can't be worse than baseline
- Sets of rules, +/- 10% in SFIs, 53 rules across Basin
- Little flexibility, Lots of constraints
- Assess flows % of years in 100 y, baseflows and freshes, bankfull & overbank, eg frequency of 20,000 ML/d flows to South Australia for 20-30 days (fresh)
- No reduction in outcomes allowed

## Coorong, Lower Lakes & Murray Mouth

- Schedule 6 of Basin Plan
- 5 outcomes re salinity, barrage flows, mouth open must be delivered, locked in!!

## Sustainable Development Limits Adjustment Process

- Benchmark = 2750 GL, starting assumption with scores
- Add measure, eg hydro cues, run model
- Check ecological scores, check limits of change
- reduce volume of water recovery until a check fails = adjustment volume
- run with different start conditions
- reliability must not reduce
- mitigate third party risks
- limits of change constrain flexibility, 53 LOCs assessed across MDB
- 13,632 GL/y baseline diversion limit
- revised SDL must be 10,873 +/- 544 GL (LOC)
- 2083 GL/y already recovered
- 650 GL not acceptable
- 450 GL to bring it back
- Won't finish water recovery until 2024
- Next review in 2026

## Complementary Projects

- MinCo agreed these projects are not substitute for flows
- \$113 B into 650 GL especially constraints

## Northern Basin

- 70 GL not included yet, not approved
- Both Houses can choose to disallow
- Senate vote is very important
- Early target, say 50 GL to meet 5%
- Focus will shift to efficiency measures
- purchase of Tandou reduced requirement downstream of Menindee Lakes

## South Australia

- Aim to have managed flows 80,000 ML/d
- Hydro- cues, work with flows to coincide
- Increase flow constraints
- 26-28 Sept Consultation on SA projects

## Consultation

- Draft determination (SDLs)
- Evidence in support (testing)
- 2 modelling reports, benchmark vs adjusted
- Independent review of modelling
- Independent expert panel on stand-by
- Daily assessments over 114 y of data
- Submissions can comment on methods and process coordinated by MDBA