



Australian Government

Commonwealth Environmental Water Office

Phillip Glyde
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Dear Mr Glyde

I am writing to advise you of some analysis the Commonwealth Environmental Water Office had commissioned to improve our management of the Commonwealth's environmental water holdings. Please find enclosed the report: *Evaluating the derivation of environmental water use in the River Murray and investigation of alternative methods*, by Dr Paul Carlile.

This work was commissioned to assist decision-making by the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder as well as our engagement with partners on improving environmental water management. I would like to thank the River Management Division of the Murray-Darling Basin Authority who I understand have assisted Dr Carlile with data collection and analysis that has supported the successful completion of the report.

The Murray-Darling Basin Authority has been doing important work since the inception of the Basin Plan to support the delivery of environmental water that has seen significant improvements over time. I hope this analysis will be of assistance to River Murray Operations as they continue their valuable work in this area.

The findings from this report highlight that there is scope for further refinement in environmental water management including in:

- improving the methods used to calculate loss rates from the delivery of environmental water;
- ensuring the best available information is incorporated into decision-making;
- implementing a more formal and structured program for evaluation of environmental water delivery arrangements.

The outcomes of this work may also be useful for future implementation of the Sustainable Diversion Limit Adjustment Mechanism (pre-requisite policy measures and supply measures) with respect to accounting environmental water 'return flows' and improvements to environmental water use efficiency.

The report has been provided to staff within the Murray-Darling Basin Authority as well to other state agencies and external stakeholders who participate in Water Liaison Watering Group and Southern Connected Basin Environmental Watering Committee to inform discussions on the arrangements for future environmental watering trials.



I look forward to continued collaboration between the Commonwealth Environmental Water Office and the Murray-Darling Basin Authority in supporting the objectives of the Basin Plan through the efficient and effective delivery of environmental water.

Yours sincerely

Mark Taylor
A/g Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder

2 February
January 2018

Attachment A: Evaluating the derivation of environmental water use in the River Murray and investigation of alternative methods by Dr Paul Carlile

