

23rd August 2016



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Russell James
Executive Director
Policy and Planning
Murray Darling Basin Authority

Thank you for your response (dated 25th January 2016) to our letter of the 27th November 2015 addressing MLDRIN's concerns about the implementation of supply measures and the SDL adjustment mechanism.

MLDRIN is pleased to note the MDBA's commitment to rigorous and transparent implementation of the SDL adjustment mechanism. We appreciate the response to our queries regarding how the potential 'trade-offs' or 'disbenefits' of SDL adjustment can be addressed.

Thank you for clarifying a proposed method for assessing the impact of SDL adjustment on Aboriginal cultural objectives, outcomes, values and uses. We believe there is a real need for an assessment of this kind to support better understanding of potential impacts. Unfortunately, the activities and procedure outlined in your letter require significant resourcing and technical expertise beyond the capacity of MLDRIN or other Traditional Owner organisations at this time.

We request clarification regarding how the MDBA proposes to initiate this assessment or support MLDRIN or Traditional Owners to undertake these activities, given the recognition that the method used to assess SDL adjustment measures does not take into account potential impacts on Aboriginal cultural values. Further, we would appreciate clarification regarding how the outputs of such an assessment would be factored in to an SDL adjustment decision. If an increase in the SDL is found to impact negatively on Aboriginal values, what mechanisms exist or could be put in place to address those impacts?

We would be very happy to work with the MDBA and other agencies to undertake a project that could clarify benefits and disbenefits for cultural outcomes arising from SDL adjustment.

Again, thank you for taking the time to address our concerns. I will also discuss these matters with Mike Makin as advised in your earlier letter.

Yours sincerely

Darren Perry
Ngintait Nation
Chair, Murray Lower Darling Rivers Indigenous Nations (MLDRIN)