Manaois, Julianne (MDBRC)

From: Emma Bradbury <e.bradbury@mda.asn.au>
Sent: Friday, 14 September 2018 2:24 PM
To: Avey, Sarah (MDBRC)
Cc: Geppa, Bianca (MDBRC); Cr David Thurley - R1
Subject: RE: MDB Royal Commission - Questions on notice
Attachments: 2018 BOC SEINAF.pdf

Hi Sarah

Thank you for your email below. Apologies for the delay in coming back to you on this.

1. **Documentation and flyer that accompanied a meeting of Region of Four and the State Government (transcript p 1330, 41 – 1331, 12)**
   MDA Region 4 Ordinary Meeting 20 July 2018 Agenda
   Minutes (includes flyer referred)

2. **Material regarding reference to "Commonwealth standards of socio-economic neutrality" (transcript p 1350, 27-13)**

   In a report prepared by Aither for the New South Wales Department of Primary Industries – Water in March 2017 *A review of socio-economic neutrality in the context of MurrayDarling Basin Plan implementation*, the author notes

   > The provision [for socio-economic neutrality as provided in the Basin Plan] is also inconsistent with Commonwealth guidelines on socioeconomic impact assessment (see, for example, Bureau of Rural Services, 2005), and does not meet the overarching intent of the Basin Plan to consider the socio-economic impacts of 'upwater' programs. (p.1)

   There are some Australian guidelines but usually not formal. NSW has developed some guidance recently in relation to mining. The BRS report being referred to is likely a handbook prepared by Dr Jacki Schirmer, then at BRS (should say Bureau of Rural Sciences 2005, not Bureau of Rural Services). It's available to download at http://www.fisheries-esd.com.au/a/pdf/Social_Assessment_Handbook.pdf. Neither these nor the MPA guidelines were formal requirements, but acted as best practice guidance.

   There's also international guidelines which are widely used and plenty of guidance on how to use them – see for example http://www.socialimpactassessment.com/documents/IAIA%202015%20Social%20Impact%20Assessment%20guidance%20document.pdf, and https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/pdf/10.3152/147154603781766491, which are referred to in almost every guidance document on SIA produced for any topic worldwide, including here in Australia

   State level guidance in SIA includes mostly work developed for mining. While it is not directly transferable the Basin Plan application, it is relevant. For Queensland see https://www.statedevelopment.qld.gov.au/resources/cg/social-impact-assessment-guideline.pdf and for NSW see https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/policy-and-legislation/under-review-and-new-policy-and-legislation/social-impact-assessment (with thanks to Dr Jackie Schirmer, published academic with recognised expertise in SIA for contributing to these notes)

3. **The Murray-Darling Association, CSIRO and University of Canberra proposal for the definition and assessment framework for assessing socio-economic neutrality (transcript p 1363, 26- 1364, 23)**

Water Resource Allocation – Socio-economic Impacts Assessment and Response Framework: Project Proposal MARCH 2018

4. **The Ministerial Council Communique of the last meeting of the Basin Ministers reflecting that the MDA presented the above proposal to the Basin Officials Committee (transcript p1364, 17-23)**
My testimony noted an elevated recognition of revisiting the issue of socio-economic neutrality reflected in the Ministerial Council Communique meeting of the Basin Ministers held 08 June 2018, particularly at paras 14 & 15 -

> *The need for effective communication and consultation was acknowledged. The Commonwealth, in consultation with the state and territory governments, will engage with relevant water management authorities, key stakeholders and communities to build social licence and understanding of the need for the efficiency measures program.*
>
> *Ministers further agreed that officials would develop an efficiency measures work plan through to 2024, consistent with the COAG Plan. This will deliver a pathway to achieving the remaining water recovery of 450 gigalitres through efficiency measures with neutral or beneficial socio-economic outcomes.*

The proposal referred to above and attached presentation was made by me to the Basin Officials Committee in Albury on Friday 10th May, and reported to members here, following an active round of engagement with MDBA, ministerial staff and department heads on the project.

Thanks for the opportunity to provide this content, and please don't hesitate to contact me you require anything further.

Kind regards

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From: Avey, Sarah (MDBRC)
Sent: Friday, 7 September 2018 10:05 AM
To: Emma Bradbury
Cc: Geppa, Bianca (MDBRC)
Subject: MDB Royal Commission - Questions on notice

Dear Ms Bradbury

The Commission was grateful for your attendance at a hearing to give evidence in Adelaide on 24 July 2018.

During the hearing, various matters were referred to that you indicated that you would follow up and provide to the Commission, namely:

1. Documentation and flyer that accompanied a meeting of Region of Four and the State Government (transcript p 1330, 41 – 1331, 12)

2. Material regarding reference to “Commonwealth standards of socio-economic neutrality” (transcript p 1350, 27-13)

3. The Murray-Darling Association, CSIRO and University of Canberra proposal for the definition and assessment framework for assessing socio-economic neutrality (transcript p 1363, 26- 1364, 23)

4. The Ministerial Council Communique of the last meeting of the Basin Ministers reflecting that the MDA presented the above proposal to the Basin Officials Committee (transcript p1364, 17-23)

Please can you confirm that you have these materials and, if so, please would ou forward them to me?

Kind Regards

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