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5 November 2018

Mr Bret Walker SC
Royal Commissioner
Murray-Darling Basin Royal Commission
GPO Box 1445, Adelaide SA 5001

Dear Mr Walker

Re: Murray-Darling Basin Royal Commission

Further to my correspondence to you dated 12 October 2018, I am writing to provide you with the CSIRO submission to the South Australian Royal Commission into the Murray-Darling Basin.

Given the Royal Commission's Terms of Reference are focused on matters of policy, our contribution does not directly address the Terms of Reference but rather details CSIRO's past involvement in providing independent and rigorous scientific input to help inform the future management of the Murray-Darling Basin.

I would also like to take this opportunity to address recent comments made in relation to CSIRO in the closing statement of Senior Counsel Assisting on 30 October 2018 referring to research conducted by CSIRO for the Murray-Darling Basin Authority (MDBA).

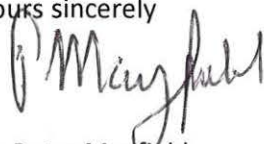
Some of the conclusions that Senior Counsel Assisting drew are not correct. This includes the statement that "The Basin Authority paid Commonwealth funds to the CSIRO for a report that they then pressured the CSIRO to change in an improper and misleading way" and the reference to "maladministration" on the part of CSIRO.

CSIRO strongly rejects this statement.

CSIRO understands the project being referred to is the CSIRO Multiple Benefits of the Basin Plan Project (the Project). The Project involved the MDBA, CSIRO, Charles Sturt University, Deakin University and Wageningen University (the Netherlands). The Project was overseen by a Scientific Reference Panel and a Project Steering Committee. The final report for the Project was subject to CSIRO's standard internal peer review by two suitably qualified non-authors prior to release. Outputs were then reviewed by an Independent Scientific Review Panel made up of representatives from Griffith University, The Centre for International Economics, Edith Cowan University, EcoInsights, and Barma Consulting.

I refer you to the attached contribution for a full description of the processes CSIRO implemented regarding governance and peer review of our work and a listing of past projects relevant to the Murray-Darling Basin.

Yours sincerely



Dr Peter Mayfield
Executive Director – Environment, Energy and Resources
CSIRO