



MEDIA RELEASE

Monday 12 August 2019

MDA welcomes Inspector-General and continued support of Basin Plan at COAG

The Murray Darling Association (MDA), Australia's peak body representing local government across the Murray Darling Basin, is strongly encouraged by outcomes from last week's Council of Australian Government (COAG) meeting, following factious media coverage of the Ministerial Council meeting held a few days prior.

At COAG, Australia's first ministers reaffirmed their commitment to the Plan and worked through next steps in its implementation, including the appointment of a new Inspector-General Murray-Darling Basin Water Resources to improve transparency, accountability and community confidence in the delivery of the Basin Plan.

The Inspector-General, a position reflective of the MDA's resolution 5.10 at the 2018 National Conference, will build community confidence in water management, Basin Plan implementation and compliance across the whole Basin.

The MDA warmly welcomes Mr Mick Keelty AO APM as the Interim Inspector-General, and eagerly anticipates his presentation as Northern Basin Commissioner at the MDA's National Conference in October.

With the recent amplification in the media of issues around the Murray-Darling Basin Plan, and the continued impacts of changing water availability, the MDA believes it is more important than ever that the voices of moderation and progress continue to be heard.

"Now, more than at any other time in the history of the Basin Plan we require Ministers to be focused on real solutions, and restoring public confidence by showing leadership," National President Cr David Thurley said following the Ministerial Council meeting.

"Local councils across the Basin work every day to maintain community wellbeing. The Murray Darling Association holds a whole of Basin perspective, seeking balance to achieve a healthy, connected, productive Basin and uniting communities up- and downstream for all our futures."

The MDA continues to call on all governments, agencies, industries and communities to work together to ensure the integrity of the Basin Plan is uncompromised and that its implementation is adaptive and timely, delivering a healthy working Basin for all.

Background:

[Murray-Darling Ministerial Council – 4 August 2019 Communique](#)

[Council of Australian Governments – 9 August 2019 Communique](#)