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## MEDIA RELEASE

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### MDA welcomes proposed review of environmental watering priorities

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The Murray Darling Association (MDA), Australia's peak body for local government in the Murray-Darling Basin has welcomed the call from Agriculture Minister David Littleproud today for an emergency meeting of water managers, and a proposal for investment in a Native Fish Management and Recovery strategy.

The Minister has also proposed a review of Federal and state environmental watering priorities to see if adaptation is needed.

Following the devastating fish kills last week, and news that further events are likely the MDA and councils across the Barwon Darling called for a collaborative meeting with the NSW Minister for Regional Water Niall Blair along with representatives from his department and from the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage, the MDBA, and the Commonwealth Environmental Water Office to discuss the immediate issues, and to consider long term strategies for the overall health of the Barwon-Darling system.

The Minister's office has responded and will host the meeting in Sydney on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of this month, with participants also able to attend by teleconference.

"We welcome the responses by both Minister Blair, and Minister Littleproud," MDA National President Cr David Thurley said. "Minister Blair's response last week, and Minister Littleproud's statement today are welcome indications of governments working together on what are complex management arrangements in challenging drought conditions."

#### Background

<http://www.mda.asn.au/fish-kills-at-menindee-requires-cool-heads-and-collaboration/news-details.aspx>

<http://minister.agriculture.gov.au/littleproud/Pages/Media-Releases/recent-fish-kills.aspx>

ENDS      *For more information, contact Murray Darling Association Chief Executive Officer, Emma Bradbury on 0429 905 017 or Cr David Thurley on 0419 510 274.*