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## MEDIA RELEASE

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# Local government encouraged by NSW Water Reform Action Plan

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The Murray Darling Association welcomes the New South Wales Government's clear and decisive action to address issues with water management and compliance.

As the peak body for local government in the Basin, the MDA is encouraged by the transparency of the NSW Water Reform Action Plan, which is the Government's response to the Matthews Report and the MDBA Compliance Review.

As part of the Plan, the Government has released consultation papers on water take measurement and metering, transparency measures, management of environmental water, and implementing the NSW Floodplain Harvesting Policy.

MDA National President Cr David Thurley attended a peak stakeholder briefing in Sydney on Tuesday to hear how the Government was progressing against the milestones of the Action Plan.

"The NSW Government is not shying away from what has been done poorly in the past and what needs to change in the management of water resources across the Basin," he said.

"I'm delighted to see a transparent process emerging around management and compliance and I get the strong impression that the Government is very serious. I expect to see action and results quite quickly."

Cr Thurley urged all NSW Basin communities to [attend consultation sessions and provide feedback](#) on the initiatives proposed by the Government.

MDA members support numerous measures proposed within the consultation papers, including a 'no meter, no pump' policy, improving the clarity around when pumping is permitted, restrictions on pumping when environmental water is released, and publishing enforcement activities undertaken by the Natural Resources Access Regulator.

The NRAR is an independent regulator established on the recommendation of Ken Matthews to take over the enforcement of water regulation in NSW. The MDA has already provided the Regulator with a list of actions it believes should be taken to improve compliance and build trust.

Speaking in Parliament on Tuesday, Minister for Regional Water Niall Blair said the Government was committed to an equitable and transparent approach to delivering a world-leading water management system.

“The people of New South Wales, who rely on this precious resource, will own this water reform. The public’s input to these important areas is crucial to driving better outcomes for regional water use,” he said.

Feedback can be provided online at [www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water-reform/consultation](http://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water-reform/consultation) by April 15 or in person at a series of consultation sessions scheduled for Dubbo, Broken Hill, Bourke, Moree, Coffs Harbour, Gunnedah, Wentworth and Griffith.

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*For more information, contact MDA CEO Emma Bradbury on 0429 905 017 or Cr David Thurley on 0419 510 274. All Region Chairs are also available for comment.*

**Contact information for the Chairs of the Murray Darling Association**

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