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MEDIA RELEASE

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Local government welcomes submission of final NSW Water Resource Plans

Communities from across New South Wales, Queensland, Victoria and South Australia have welcomed the historic announcement by Minister for Resources, Water and Northern Australia Keith Pitt of New South Wales' submission of its final nine water resource plans.

The submission of these plans will enable assessment by the Murray-Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) to proceed. Final approval of the plans will then provide councils, businesses and industries with greater certainty and the information they need to make informed and reliable decisions in relation to water use.

The Murray Darling Association (MDA) congratulates New South Wales, as well as all Basin states, for the significant accomplishment of completing these plans, which will play an essential part of securing long-term sustainable water management across the Basin.

Mayor Phillis Miller of Forbes Shire Council in New South Wales and chair of MDA Region 10 said today, "We recognise the tremendous work undertaken by Minister Pavey and the department. NSW has faced devastating drought, bushfires and terribly low inflow's in recent years and the Department has had to deal with extraordinary circumstances. Getting these Plans in shows the real commitment of NSW to support its community and work with the whole of the Basin."

The Water Resource Plans are a critical component of the Murray-Darling Basin Plan, and play a large role in ensuring community confidence, transparency, and accountability across the Basin.

Mayor Dave Burgess of Mid Murray Council who is a member of MDA Region 5 in South Australia also acknowledged the achievement, "We are grateful to see these Plans on the table. This will allow us all to move forward with the Basin Plan and deliver a healthy working Basin together. We are all part of a whole of Basin community and need to keep our eye on the bigger picture."

The MDA is confident that the assessment process, now in the hands of the Authority will continue to drive momentum in progressing the complex implementation and planning of efficiency projects and investments.

ENDS *For more information, contact Murray Darling Association Chief Executive Officer,
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