



MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday 1 August 2019

The Barwon-Darling is an ecosystem in crisis

“The Barwon-Darling is an ecosystem in crisis [with] the *Water Sharing Plan for the Barwon Darling Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2012* (the Plan) contributing to poor ecological, social and cultural outcomes. DPIE-Water should amend and remake the Plan”

These are the clear findings and recommendation of the NSW Natural Resources Commission’s draft Water Sharing Plan review handed down last week, and have been welcomed by the MDA.

Councils and communities along the Barwon-Darling are relieved to see such a decisive statement by the Commission, echoing the calls they have been making to the NSW Government since the Plan was introduced.

The Murray Darling Association (MDA), Australia’s peak body representing local government across the Murray Darling Basin is encouraging all stakeholders to read this important report and provide submissions to the draft.

“The health of the Barwon-Darling “Barka” is fundamental to ensuring a healthy, connected, productive Basin. Many of the current deliverability issues along the Murray river are a direct result of the lack of connection between the eponymous rivers of the Basin,” Chair of MDA Region 4 and councillor with Wentworth Shire Council Cr Jane MacAllister said.

“By acting urgently to unwind the elements of the BD WSP which we know have contributed to the dire conditions downstream and lack of connection, we may yet save remaining native fish species and communities in this uniquely important, longest and driest section of the Murray Darling Basin, for the benefit of us all,” Cr MacAllister said.

Submissions close on 19 August 2019, and can be completed via:

- Email: nrc@nrc.nsw.gov.au
- Post: Natural Resources Commission, GPO Box 5341, Sydney NSW 2001

All written submission will be made available on the Commission’s website, unless a submission is clearly marked confidential or it contains material that is defamatory, offensive or in breach of any law.

Background:

[Draft Report – Barwon-Darling water sharing plan review](#)

[Media release – Barwon-Darling water sharing plan review](#)