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MEDIA RELEASE

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Total water availability for ag a welcome discussion

The Murray Darling Association (MDA), Australia's peak body representing local government across the Murray Darling Basin, has welcomed comments by SunRice chairman, Laurie Arthur, concerned with ensuring sustainable stream flows in the lower Murray Darling Basin.

Mr Arthur's comments follow the recent call by the Almond Board of Australia for a moratorium on new water licences, and echo calls from other industry groups for further action to ensure water security and product diversity, and a sustainable future for the agriculture sector.

"There is a growing awareness at industry level of the limitations of our shared water resource," MDA Chief Executive Officer, Emma Bradbury said.

"Changing water availability has cumulative impacts on communities and economies, with the future of every sector dependent on their ability to be part of a balanced Basin. Whether it's rice, dairy, nuts or cotton we need to ensure a sustainable and balanced yield. That will best be achieved by industry driving the discussion between themselves and with local, state and federal governments."

In order to sustain a healthy Murray Darling Basin, the MDA believes that it is important for mutually inter-dependent agricultural sectors and relevant stakeholders in the Murray Darling Basin to continue to engage in broader discussions on water and agricultural productivity.

The MDA supports the implementation of a healthy Basin Plan and believes that these collaborative discussions between agricultural sectors are critical to ensuring the application of the plan has favourable outcomes for all stakeholders.

Background:

[Farm Online National Article](#)

[Almond Board of Australia Press Release](#)

[Almond Board of Australia Water Policy Position Paper](#)

ENDS *For more information, contact Murray Darling Association Chief Executive Officer, Emma Bradbury on 0429 905 017.*