

No.	Action	2016-17 Progress Update
1	Develop and implement water planning and management frameworks that comply with the sustainable diversion limit (SDL) requirements of the Basin Plan.	<p>Sustainable Diversion Limit (SDL) modelling work for the Eastern Mount Lofty Ranges water resource plan has been completed. No changes are required to the extraction limits in the Eastern Mount Lofty Ranges or Marne Saunders Water Allocation Plans to ensure Basin Plan compliance.</p> <p>Farm dam policies to ensure compliance with surface water SDLs in South Australian Murray Region water resource plan area have been drafted and consulted with the community. The new policies are now in the process of adoption.</p>
2	Participate in, and influence, the development and implementation of the SDL adjustment mechanism and assessment of projects.	<p>On 16 June 2017, Basin Ministers decided on the final package of projects to offset further water recovery and to address constraints on environmental water delivery.</p> <p>The Murray-Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) will now complete their modelling and assessment, consult Basin governments, and then undertake formal public consultation during October to November 2017 on the proposed SDL Adjustment offset outcome.</p>
3	Identify and develop potential South Australian SDL adjustment project proposals and implement approved projects.	<p>The MDBA's initial advice indicates the package is likely to achieve an SDL offset in excess of 600 gigalitres and has the potential, combined with remaining contracted water recovery projects, to fully offset the remaining water recovery 'gap' in the southern Basin.</p> <p>South Australia has progressed six project business cases for measures to offset water recovery and is co-proponent on another five projects. This includes a business case on how to address constraints on environmental water delivery in South Australia.</p> <p>Basin Ministers have commissioned an independent and expert analysis of how best to design, target and resource efficiency measures programmes to recover the final 450 gigalitres, consistent with the Basin Plan legal requirement to achieve neutral or improved socio-economic outcomes. The analysis will also consider any broader community concerns and any strategies that may be required to support neutral or improved socio-economic outcomes.</p> <p>The analysis is due for completion in December 2017 and Basin States have committed to a response in early 2018.</p>
4	Identify and support implementation of strategic water recovery projects, with advice from the Water Recovery Advisory Committee.	<p>More than three-quarters of South Australia's water recovery target of 183.8 gigalitres (long term average annual yield) has either already been recovered or is under contract. It is anticipated that the remainder will be achieved through the package of water recovery offset projects.</p>

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5	Work with the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder and the MDBA to ensure appropriate arrangements for environmental water delivery to South Australia.	<p>In 2016-17, the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR) was successful in securing the delivery of 996 gigalitres of held environmental water to improve the health of the riverine environment, floodplain wetlands and Coorong, Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth. In addition, South Australia received unregulated flows in 2016/17, peaking at 94,500 megalitres per day. These flows in conjunction with the environmental water provided environmental benefits and has enabled significant barrage releases to be made throughout the year.</p> <p>Environmental benefits observed in 2016-17 included a significant migration of diadromous fish from the estuary through the barrage fish ways into the River Murray, improvement in salinity levels in the Coorong, improved fish and invertebrate communities in the Coorong and breeding of threatened frog and fish species in the Lower Lakes and Coorong.</p> <p>Environmental water delivered to South Australia also supported the high level testing of the Chowilla regulator in 2016. This event enabled floodplain inundation across approximately 7,650 hectares and resulted in improved tree condition, regeneration of trees and understorey vegetation, widespread growth and flowering aquatic vegetation and positive frog and bird responses.</p>
6	Influence the management of environmental water under the environmental watering plan, in particular through the development of the Basin-wide environmental watering strategy and annual priorities.	<p>DEWNR officers developed and submitted annual watering priorities for South Australian River Murray environmental assets to the MDBA and then worked with the MDBA to identify the Basin annual environmental watering priorities, for 2016-17 and for 2017-18.</p> <p>Environmental water delivery has been critical to the survival of a number of threatened species in the Lower Lakes including the Murray hardyhead, southern and Yarra pygmy perch and southern bell frogs. Inundation of prime habitat for these species has been enabled by the delivery of environmental water.</p> <p>Monitoring of barrage fishways in summer 2017 resulted in the capture of 1.5 million fish in and around the fishways. The delivery of environmental water has enabled continuous fishway operation, which has supported year-round fish movements between the Lower Lakes, Coorong and the Murray mouth.</p>
7	Develop and implement South Australia's long-term environmental watering plans and annual watering priorities.	<p>South Australia's River Murray Long Term Environmental Watering Plan was completed in 2015. In 2016-17 work progressed on developing Long Term Environmental Watering Plans for the Eastern Mount Lofly Ranges and the South Australian Murray regions.</p>

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8	Identify and advocate for projects and reforms aimed at removing the barriers limiting the effective delivery of environmental flows through the River Murray system.	<p>A business case on how to address constraints on environmental water delivery in South Australia was approved by Basin states in 2016-17.</p> <p>South Australia is also working collaboratively with other Basin jurisdictions to progress agreed constraints measures along the River Murray and the Murrumbidgee, Goulburn and Lower Darling rivers systems in order to maximise environmental flows, provide enhanced environmental outcomes and effectively engage communities.</p>
9	Facilitate the implementation of the Pike and Katarapko environmental works and measures project.	<p>During 2016/17 work progressed to develop infrastructure options and detailed designs for managed watering of the floodplains and salinity management under the \$155 million South Australian Riverland Floodplains Integrated Infrastructure Program (SARFIIP).</p> <p>Early on-ground works were undertaken to construct water regulating structures on the Pike and Katarapko Floodplains.</p>
10	Develop and implement water quality management plans for South Australia's Murray-Darling Basin water resource plan areas.	<p>Work on developing Water Quality Management Plans for the Eastern Mount Lofty Ranges, Murray Region and River Murray has progressed.</p> <p>A review of irrigation salinity management policy is underway and community feedback on an issues paper was undertaken. The review will be finalised by the end of 2017.</p> <p>South Australia also contributed to Basin wide salinity management actions under the Basin Salinity Management Strategy 2030.</p>
11	Develop water trading policies, protocols, and processes that comply with the Basin Plan.	<p>The revised River Murray Water Allocation Plan has been drafted with Basin Plan compliant trade arrangements. Consistency with Basin Plan water trading rules has been demonstrated in the draft South Australian Murray Region and Eastern Mount Lofty Ranges Water Resource Plans.</p> <p>Work commenced to improve information about the River Murray water market have been developed and the new information will be published in the 'Water Markets and Trade' section of the DEWNR website in 2017-18.</p>
12	Develop and implement water resource plans that are consistent with the Basin Plan.	<p>The draft SA Murray Region Water Resource Plan was provided to the MDBA for comment.</p> <p>Consultation was undertaken on proposed amendments to the water allocation plans and regional Natural Resource Management (NRM) Plans in the South Australian Murray Region Water Resource Plan area.</p> <p>Two Aboriginal Nations Workshops were held in 2016-2017 to confirm the approach to engagement in water resource planning and a</p>

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		number of meetings were held to identify objectives and outcomes for water resource management.
13	Continue to work with other Basin states and the MDBA to ensure critical human water needs can be provided in times of low flow or impaired water quality.	<p>To date, 90 gigalitres of South Australian entitlement flow has been deferred and stored in upstream storages for critical human water needs.</p> <p>Joint arrangements with New South Wales and Victoria are in place to reserve 225 gigalitres each year to ensure sufficient water is available to deliver critical human water needs during dry periods.</p>
14	Support community and industry access to funding for economic diversification and regional development projects.	<p>Funding for the Murray Darling Basin Regional Economic Diversification program has now concluded.</p> <p>PIRSA continued to deliver the \$265 million South Australian River Murray Sustainability Program (SARMS) to support regional development and industry redevelopment projects and recover up to 40 gigalitres of water entitlements for the environment. To date, almost \$177 million of investment has been offered through SARMS Irrigation Industry Improvement (3IP) resulting in around 35 gigalitres of water ready for return to the River.</p>
15	Support implementation of the Water Industry Alliance River Murray Improvements Program (SARMS).	<p>Milestones for the \$25 million Regional Economic Development element of SARMS were completed. This includes the Industry-led Research Sub-Program, the Regional Development and Innovation Fund, and the redevelopment of the Loxton Research Centre.</p>
16	Engage the community throughout the Basin Plan implementation process.	<p>The River Murray Engagement Plan continues to be implemented to inform and engage people about the implementation of the Murray-Darling Basin Plan and its various projects.</p> <p>DEWNR has launched the River Murray SA Facebook page. It is designed to facilitate conversation on River Murray issues, provide relevant, interesting, useful content on River Murray issues and provide a central platform where users can share their own River Murray experience.</p> <p>The River Murray Update e-newsletter continues to deliver the latest news, information and announcements about the River Murray and Basin Plan implementation. The updates can be found at <a href="http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/managing-natural-resources/river-murray/latest-news">http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/managing-natural-resources/river-murray/latest-news</a>.</p> <p>Several videos have been produced to explain and promote features of the Basin Plan's implementation in South Australia. Topics include salinity management, water resource planning, and the importance of the Basin Plan to all water users.</p>

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		Changes to the DEWNR website have also been made in consultation with the community, including updating information on River Murray water markets and trade.
17	Ensure South Australia's Basin Plan monitoring, evaluation and reporting arrangements are effective and efficient.	<p>DEWNR has worked with the MDBA and the other Basin States to develop the approach for reporting on the effectiveness of the Basin Plan and to identify ways to integrate and coordinate monitoring, evaluation and reporting.</p> <p>South Australia delivered its annual reporting requirements (as described in schedule 12 of the Basin Plan). This information was used by the MDBA to prepare the Basin Plan Annual Report 2015-16.</p>
18	Ensure best available science supports South Australia's implementation of the Basin Plan.	A range of science projects were undertaken by the DEWNR Science and Information Branch and Goyder Institute for Water Research to improve understanding of River Murray ecology and responses to environmental watering, assess implications of Sustainable Diversion Limit adjustment projects, improve modelling of groundwater salinity and support the management and operations of infrastructure on floodplains for environmental outcomes.
19	Negotiate and implement a Basin Plan Implementation Agreement with the MDBA and other Basin states that has regard to South Australian circumstances and any relevant Commonwealth-State agreements.	Basin States remain on track delivering the requirements of the Basin Plan Implementation Agreement.
20	Implement the Inter-governmental Agreement on Implementing Water Reform in the Murray-Darling Basin.	<p>South Australia achieved its 2015-16 milestones for Basin Plan implementation under the National Partnership Agreement on Implementing Water Reform in the Murray-Darling Basin.</p> <p>Achieving these milestones secures Commonwealth funding to partially offset implementation costs and continues to be an important step in progressing implementation of the Basin Plan.</p> <p>In early June 2017, the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) endorsed a plan that provides a credible and balanced pathway to deliver the Basin Plan including: supply measures to offset the Basin Plan water recovery target of 2,750 gigalitres by 2019, constraints measure to address impediments to delivering environmental water and efficiency measures to recover the remaining 450 gigalitres by 2024.</p>

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		There will be a regular COAG side-meeting of First Ministers of Basin jurisdictions to monitor progress.
21	Ensure South Australia's interests are considered in any reviews or amendment of the Murray-Darling Basin Agreement.	South Australian government representatives actively represented the state's interest in discussions relating to the Agreement and the proposed amendments to the Basin Plan.