



AUSTRALIAN
SENATE

**Senate Standing Committee for the
Scrutiny of Delegated Legislation**

Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600
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www.aph.gov.au/senate_sdlc

17 June 2021

Senator Susan McDonald
Chair
Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

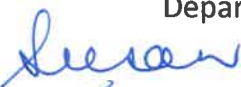
via email: rrat.sen@aph.gov.au

cc: Senator the Hon Simon Birmingham, Minister for Finance,
DLO-Finance@finance.gov.au

The Hon David Littleproud MP, Minister for Agriculture, Drought
and Emergency Management,
DLO-MO@agriculture.gov.au

The Hon Keith Pitt MP, Minister for Resources, Water and
Northern Australia,
minister.pitt@industry.gov.au

Department of Finance, FFSPRegs@finance.gov.au



Dear Chair,

Legislative instruments specifying Commonwealth expenditure

I write on behalf of the Senate Standing Committee for the Scrutiny of Delegated Legislation which assesses all legislative instruments subject to disallowance, disapproval or affirmative resolution by the Senate against the scrutiny principles outlined in Senate standing order 23.

Standing order 23(4) requires the committee to scrutinise each instrument to determine whether the attention of the Senate should be drawn to the instrument on the ground that it raises significant issues or otherwise gives rise to issues that are likely to be of interest to the Senate.

The instrument listed in the table below, in combination with its enabling Act, authorises the Commonwealth to spend public money on the identified grants or programs. The committee considers that the scrutiny of such instruments is an essential aspect of parliamentary scrutiny and control of Commonwealth expenditure. Noting this, the committee has determined that the instrument listed below engages standing order 23(4), and accordingly has resolved to draw it to the attention of your committee:

Instrument	Grant/Program	Amount	Description
Financial Framework (Supplementary Powers) Amendment (Agriculture, Water and the Environment Measures No. 1) Regulations 2021 [F2021L00288]	Murray-Darling Healthy Rivers Program	\$24.5 million over two years from 2020-21	To provide grants to support community-based environmental projects that improve the health and ecological condition of rivers and wetlands in the Murray-Darling Basin.
	Immediate Assistance Fund	\$10.1 million over three years from 2020-21	To provide financial assistance to state and territory governments and industry to improve Australia's capacity to respond to an exotic plant or animal, pest or disease incursion.
	Great Artesian Basin Lynn Brake Scholarship Grant Program	Annual grant of \$20,000 over four years from 2021-22 subject to budget being approved for each financial year	To provide scholarships to students to support research related to the Great Artesian Basin.
	Lake Eyre Basin Justin Costelloe Scholarship Grant Program	Annual grant of \$20,000 over four years from 2021-22 subject to budget being approved for each financial year	To provide scholarships to students to support research and understanding related to the Lake Eyre Basin Agreement Area.

I note that under standing order 25(2)(a) your committee is empowered to conduct own-motion inquiries into legislative instruments which relate to the portfolios allocated to your committee, although there is no requirement to do so. Should your committee decide to further examine the above instrument, I note that (based on the current sitting pattern) the time for lodging a disallowance notice in the Senate expires on 11 August 2021.

Further details about the instrument are published on the Federal Register of Legislation at <https://www.legislation.gov.au/>.

Please note that in the interests of transparency this correspondence will be published on the Scrutiny of Delegated Legislation Committee's website.

Should you have any questions, please contact the committee's secretariat on (02) 6277 3066, or by email to sdlc.sen@aph.gov.au.

Yours sincerely,



Senator the Hon Concetta Fierravanti-Wells

Chair

Senate Standing Committee for the Scrutiny of Delegated Legislation