

Select Committee on the Murray–Darling Basin Plan

Murray–Darling Basin Authority response to questions on notice

Public Hearing 1 – Canberra 18th September 2015

Question 1 - Hansard page 5

Senator CANAVAN: I have got limited time, so maybe take this on notice. My specific question is: in the CGE modelling, is there just a representative agent, if you like, for St George or are there—is the modelling sophisticated—irrigators who may move and local business people and community residents who do not have that flexibility.

Answer:

The approach to assessing potential social and economic change largely relies on describing outcomes for irrigated agriculture and communities. The emphasis of the work is on how changes in water availability impact on irrigated production around each of 21 towns in the northern basin. Estimating the effects of water recovery will take into account the scale of water recovery, whether it is through buyback or infrastructure investment, the time period for acquiring the water and the relative dependence of the individual towns on irrigated agriculture.

Determining the effects of water recovery and how communities might adjust to the change will take into account the economic and social conditions of the community at the time of the water recovery and the proportion of funds from the buyback or infrastructure investment that remains in the respective towns. It does not assume that all individuals in a community receive an equal share of the water recovery amount.

Further information on the northern basin review is included in the MDBA's submission to this inquiry and on the MDBA's website.

Note:

The MDBA has provided further information for questions on notice directed to the then Department of the Environment (currently transitioning to the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources) that are the responsibility of the MDBA. This information is available at: http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Murray_Darling_Basin_Plan/murraydarling/Additional_Documents