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Senate Environment and Communications Legislation Committee  
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Submission  
Inquiry into the Water Amendment (Purchase Limit Repeal) Bill 2019

Central West Environment Council (CWEC) is an umbrella organization representing conservation groups and individuals in central west NSW working to protect the local environment for future generations.

CWEC supports the *Water Amendment (Purchase Limit Repeal) Bill 2019* because it lifts the unnecessary 1500 GL cap on environmental water purchases across the Murray-Darling Basin.

The recently adopted SDL adjustment, including the highly contentious Menindee Lakes supply measure, is likely to fail to provide adequate water for environmental recovery as required by the Basin Plan.

The purchase of water licenses from willing sellers is the quickest and most cost efficient use of public funds to recover water for the restoration of river and wetland health and achieve the objectives of Basin Plan.

CWEC urges all sitting members to pass this important piece of legislation to help prevent ecological catastrophes like the recent fish kills in the Darling River.

Our inland river systems and dependent native species desperately need more water to improve resilience so that they can survive extreme drought events.

Lifting the 1500 GL cap on buybacks will assist a more rapid delivery of essential environmental flows to improve the resilience of ecological function and ecosystem services.

CWEC considers that the Murray-Darling Basin Plan is an important water reform process that must be given every opportunity to succeed. The \$13 billion of public investment should not be hampered by unnecessary restrictions.

Yours sincerely

Cilla Kinross  
President