



Dear Senator David Leyonhjelm and committee members,

**Re: Waterfind responses to Senate Select Committee on the Murray Darling Basin Plan questions on notice.**

Please find below our responses to the standing committee. We have reviewed the transcript and have provided responses to the following points:

- 1) *Waterfind to provide previous evidence of any documents and past positions regarding market regulation.*
- 2) *Waterfind to provide a considered perspective on the extent of speculation in the water market*
- 3) *Information regarding Waterfind's National market share*

**1. Water Market regulation<sup>1</sup>**

Appendix A provides a copy of a previous correspondence submitted to the Council of Australian Governments regarding regulation of the water market (year 2013). These documents are the most recent outline of Waterfind's long held position and support of regulation of the Australian Water Market. Our position is that we believe there would be benefits for the Commonwealth Government to regulate the water market through a licencing system, and that such regulation would require water market intermediaries to:

- Operate an independently audited trust account for client funds that is protected from creditors.
- Hold professional indemnity insurance specific to the operation of the position of water broker or exchange service.
- Prohibit any employee of an intermediary from engaging in the buying and reselling of water for profit.
- Operate independently from a water regulatory authority.
- Offer contracts drawn specifically for the purpose of water transfers.
- Employ standards and consistent procedures to control the transfer process and protect the rights and interests of clients.
- Report contracted prices to a centralised water price reporting system, ideally through a constant data stream or at least on an hourly basis.
- Disclose and have agreements with clients as to the form of the relationship (i.e. whether it is an intermediary or agency relationship).

Further to these minimum requirements, a stronger regulatory framework for the water market would also ideally include:

- The development of broader regulatory water market rules that includes performance standards and procedures for announcing water allocations, changing water market rules, and processing water transactions.

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<sup>1</sup> These documents have been previously presented in Waterfind's submission to the *Draft COAG Regulation Impact Statement for Consultation June 2013* (Appendix A).

- The capacity for Government organisations who approve water transfers to refuse to process transfers lodged by an unlicensed intermediary.
- The requirement for market intermediaries to achieve some form of quality endorsed certification (i.e. ISO 9001 quality certification).

## 2. Perspective on the extent of speculation in the water market

The Oxford Dictionary defines speculation as follows;

*“Investment in stocks, property, etc. in the hope of gain but with the risk of loss”*

Using this definition in the strictest sense, most of Australian water right holders would be considered in one form or another speculators and as Australian farming enterprises are continuing to be aggregated, our answer to Senators is that Australia has over the last 10 years undergone an actual decline in the number of individuals speculating in holding water.

We speculate (using the other Oxford definition meaning of *“forming a theory or conjecture without firm evidence”*) that the drive of the question from the committee may be one which is requesting our opinion on the growth or otherwise of people buying or selling water that do not have an intention of using that water for food and fibre production or industrial purposes, and or they are buying and selling water for the sole purpose of making money.

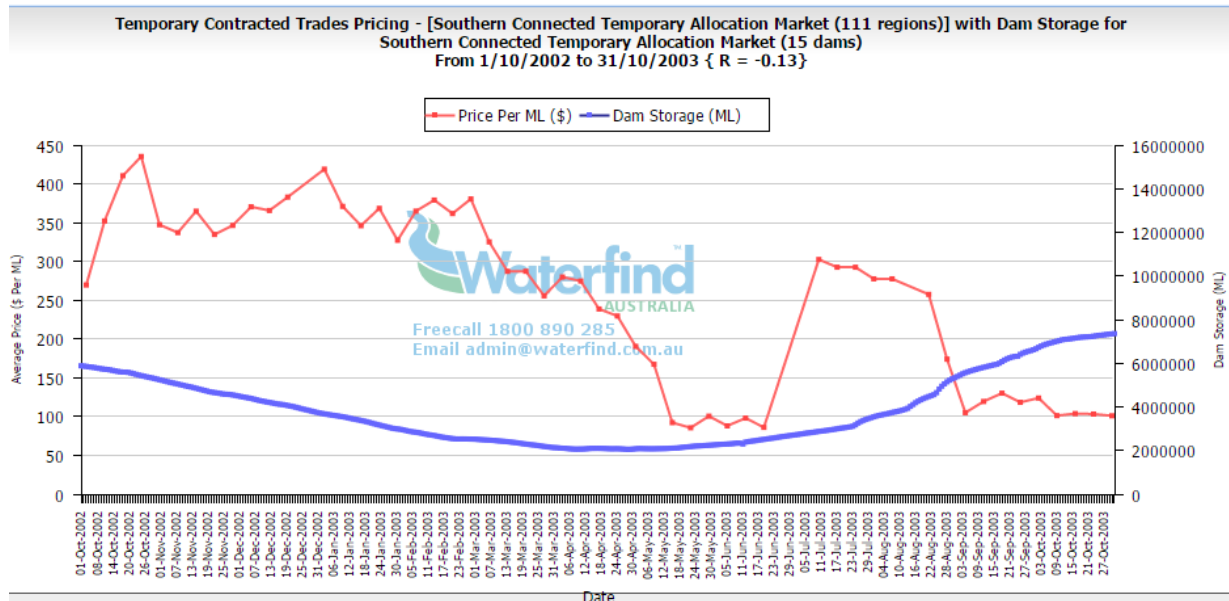
As we do not survey our customers on their intentions regarding buying and selling water it is difficult to analytically quantify this question. Based on our general market knowledge and anecdotal evidence, our suggestion is that the amount of water held in the market for non-food / fibre production or industrial use has increased over the last 10 years. Nevertheless, the eventual application of this water is still for food and fibre production or environmental purposes. The largest water holder of this type today being the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder.

While we have an obvious vested interest in maturing and growing the water market, Waterfind would caution the committee on supporting the introduction of rules that would attempt to decrease market participation. We believe that such rules would simply serve to temporarily disrupt, encourage innovative rules work arounds, and increase the volatility of the market. Increased volatility would then only serve as additional berley to greedy investors seeking to make profit out of this precious resource.

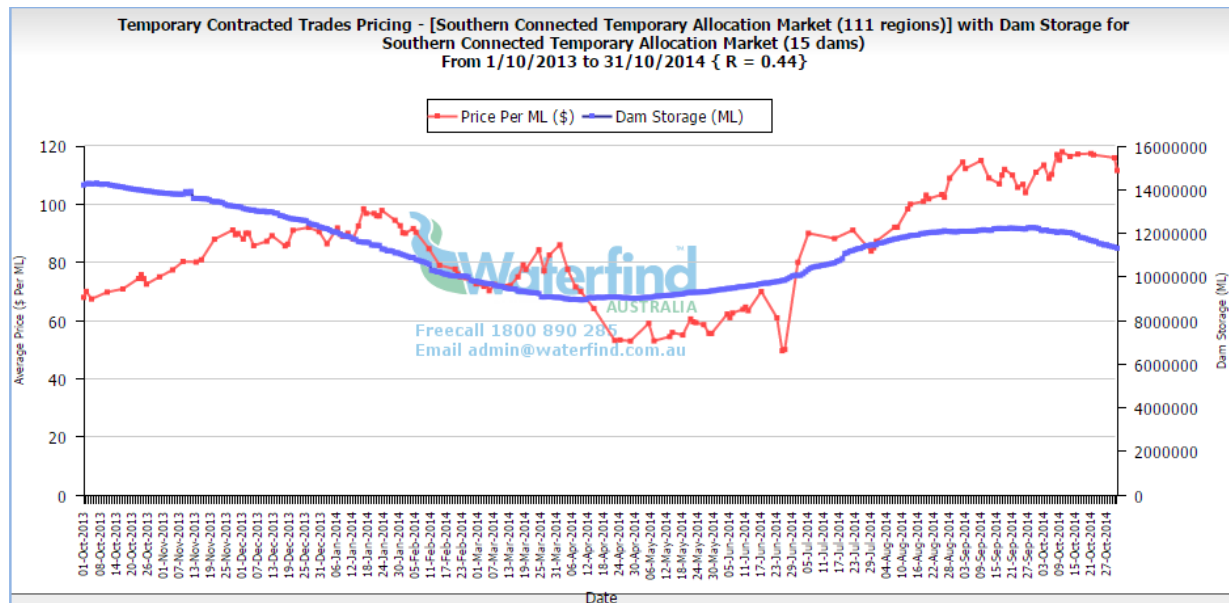
Waterfind believes it is imperative for the Commonwealth to encourage increased participation as well as maturity of the water market, as this serves to decrease volatility and provides irrigation communities with increased opportunities to grow their irrigated agricultural businesses while supporting continued advancements on irrigation efficiency. This is the reason why Australian irrigators today are the most efficient and productive in the world.

Waterfind has been involved in recording the value of Australian water markets now for over a decade and notes Figure 1 and Figure 2. Figure 1 is the record of water pricing in the Southern Murray Darling Connected Water Market from October 2002 to October 2003, whilst Figure 2 compares the same time (10 years latter) in 2013 and 2014. Overlaid on these pricing graphs is the water storage position during these time periods. We would focus the reader on the left hand vertical price index between these two figures, which demonstrates the extreme volatility of the immature markets (Figure 1) where prices varied between \$80 to \$450 in 2002/03, as compared to the more mature markets 10 years later where prices varied between \$50 to \$120 (Figure 2).

**Figure 1:** Allocations and temporary water pricing, SMDB 2002/03



**Figure 2:** Allocations and temporary water pricing, SMDB 2013/14.



Given the success of market maturation efforts in dampening price fluctuations in the temporary allocation market, greater efforts are now needed to mature and stabilise the permanent entitlement market. Three key steps toward achieving this include:

- Encourage stronger backing from banks by developing the mortgage ability of entitlements.
- Develop clearly indefeasible water rights.
- Allow for full functionality of water entitlements currently held as part of bulk water rights.

We also note work conducted by the ACCC in the November 2015 Review of Water Charge Rules Draft Advice<sup>2</sup>, which were:

- *The ACCC also has not been able to find any firm evidence of water market speculation driving up water prices.*
- *Although individuals' marginal water use and trading actions affect the supply of and demand for water allocation in the market at a particular point in time, fundamentally prices reflect the total amount of water available to be allocated.*
- *The ACCC also accepts that non-water users will seek to maximise their return on water assets. However, water trading is also of benefit to irrigators. Irrigators will also ordinarily seek to maximise their return on their water access rights by using the water made available under such rights to produce agricultural output.*
- *The ACCC remains of the view that there should not be any limitations on which entities can buy and sell water in the Basin.*

In summary, excluding the disruptive effect of the CEWH's participation in the water market as currently involved, the water market is now consolidated and engaged enough that regardless of who owns the water, there isn't the capacity for any single entity (apart from the CEWH) to have a dramatic impact on its performance. This doesn't mean that there isn't room for improvement. To continue the success of market maturation efforts that have occurred following planning and major reforms such as the National Water initiative 2004, the Water Act 2007, and the MDBP, we suggest that renewed efforts are now needed to increase the mortgage ability, indefeasibly, and functionality of permanent entitlements.

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<sup>2</sup> [Australian Competition & Consumer Commission. Review of Water Charge Rules Draft Advice. November 2015](#)



### 3. Information on Waterfind's market share.

Specific questions from Senator Bob Day:

- a) What is the annual volume that you trade?
  - b) What is your market share?
  - c) What is the dollar value per annum that you trade?
- a) The annual volume of water for which Waterfind provides broking services varies greatly year to year. In addition, it is important to distinguish in any year between temporary and permanent water traded. It is difficult to accurately estimate Waterfind's market share in either the temporary or permanent market and in any case the details of any broker's volumes, revenues, and market share are highly sensitive in the water market. Nevertheless, the volume, value and estimated market share enjoyed by Waterfind has grown steadily over the years and the firm is now one of the leading Australian water brokers.
- b) See answer to question 1 above.
- c) See answer to question 1 above.



Further to our original submission point 4, part 1 that the Commonwealth should give better evidence of environmental outcomes, we would like to draw the committees attention to a key outcome of the 2015 Environmental Water Forum<sup>3</sup>, which was the development of “golden principles” for growing public confidence in environmental watering. These were considered to be applicable to water trusts and government environmental managers. Following discussion amongst forum participants the following golden principles were identified:

- Communicate success
- A little water can go a long way
- We are still learning about how to manage environmental water and that is OK. All feedback is good feedback and can be integrated into an adaptive management approach
- Watering needs to be inclusive of aboriginal interests and such dialogue can raise cross cultural awareness
- There are many types of public and we need to communicate with them differently
- Utilise champions and know your assassins
- Use consistent, common language
- Engagement with the community needs to be early and on-going
- Share knowledge and data and make it accessible to everyone

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**Tom Rooney**

Company President

**Alister Walsh**

Chief Executive Officer

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<sup>3</sup> 2015 Environmental Water Forum: Continuing to grow public confidence in environmental watering. An initiative of the Water Trust Alliance, Coordinated by Healthy Rivers Australia (Appendix B).

**Appendix A – Waterfind Submission to Draft COAG Regulation Impact Statement for Consultation, June 2013**

5 June 2013

Assistant Secretary  
Water Policy Branch  
Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Populations and Communities  
GPO Box 787  
Canberra ACT 2601

Dear sir/madam

Waterfind believes that effective licensing and regulation of water market intermediaries is critical for the ongoing growth of water markets and for maintaining the trust of water right holders in the water market.

Immature water registers and the lack of market clearance facilities means that intermediaries, whose role is to protect the interest of water right holders involved in a transfer, need to hold unusually large amount of clients funds compared to other financial transactions. This creates a high risk that malpractice from a water market intermediary can cause financial harm to clients and damage users' confidence and engagement in the Australian water market.

Waterfind is pleased that the Commonwealth Government is prioritising the creation of a regulation or licensing framework for water market intermediaries. We believe that the minimum requirements that need to be included in such a framework are;

That all water market intermediates must

1. Operate an independently audited trust account for client funds that is protected from creditors.
2. Hold professional indemnity insurance specific to the transfer of water.
3. Prohibit any employee of an intermediaries from engaging in the buying and re-selling of water for profit.
4. Operate independently from a water regulatory authority.
5. Offer contracts drawn specifically for the purpose of water transfers.
6. Employ standards and consistent procedures to control the transfer process and protect the rights and interests of clients.
7. Report contracted prices to a centralised water price reporting system, ideally through a constant data stream or at least on an hourly basis.
8. Disclose and have agreements with clients as to the form of relationship, whether it is an intermediary or agency relationship.

Further to these minimum requirements Waterfind believes that a strong regulatory framework for the water market would also ideally include;

1. The development of broader regulatory water market rules that includes performance standards and procedures for announcing water allocations, changing water market rules and processing water transactions.
2. The capacity for Government organisations who approve water transfers to refuse to process transfers lodged by an unlicensed intermediary.
3. The requirement for market intermediaries to achieve ISO 9001 quality certification.

A regulatory framework for water market intermediaries could be achieved either through Industry specific regulation managed by the Commonwealth or through a Voluntary Accreditation Scheme (VAS) administered by an Industry Organisation.

In the past Waterfind has been sceptical that a VAS would provide the required security to protect the interests of water rights holder. Over the last 12 months though there has been development on some key policy fronts in regards to the institutions that govern water markets, particularly the National Water Market System (NWMS) policy.

Waterfind's understanding is that it is intended that there will be a portal built into the NWMS infrastructure that allows water market intermediaries to use NWMS in submitting and settling water transfers. This would support an increase in the efficiency of water markets, decrease the time required to settle trades and enhance the simplicity of the trade settlement process allowing for fewer mistakes to occur.

Under a VAS access to the NWMS could be restricted only to intermediaries that have achieved the Accreditation. This would provide an efficient and powerful pathway for regulating water market intermediaries.

Waterfind urges COAG to consider the synergies presented for regulating water market intermediaries that are presented through the development of the NWMS in the decision making about regulating water market intermediaries. This may provide a viable cheaper alternative to industry specific regulation however it does rely upon the NWMS providing services that are valued by water market intermediaries.

In Conclusion, Waterfind's view is that the first choice of a market regulatory structure should be industry specific regulation through a licencing regime. As stated above however a VAS may provide a similar outcome if intermediaries are provided specific services through the NWMS that are highly valued and placed at risk if minimum standards are not adhered to. Attached to this letter is Waterfind's response to specific questions raised by the Commonwealth relating to water market regulation.

Sincerely

Tom Rooney  
CEO Waterfind



## WATERFIND – RESPONSE TO SPECIFIC QUESTIONS

5 June 2013

Below Waterfind has provided response to the specific questions raised in the Impact Statement.

**Question 3:** In your experience does the number of intermediaries operating in Australian water markets change year to year?

Waterfind observed that there were more intermediaries operating from the period from approximately 2006 to 2008 when the value of water transferred through the market was at its highest.

Since then the market has returned to more normal levels, and the easy profit opportunities have gone, many of these intermediaries have left the water market.

If there was another dry period and the value of the market increased again there would likely be another increase in the number of intermediaries. The new intermediaries entering the market would likely have less rigorous practices which increases the risk of malpractice.

**Question 4:** Do you consider that there has been any intermediary misconduct? If so, what is the nature of this misconduct? Do you consider it to be widespread? What is the basis for this view?

Waterfind has been informed, through second and third hand sources, that some intermediaries have used practices to manage client funds that Waterfind believes are inappropriate.

Specifically, Waterfind has heard reports of intermediaries not securing client funds in audited Trust accounts and also reports of inter-mingling of client and intermediary's personal funds.

Waterfind has never independently confirmed that these reports are accurate.

**Question 5:** Do you consider intermediary misconduct is likely to increase in future? What is the basis for this view?

The irrigation community's reliance on effective and efficient water markets is also increasing due to many of these irrigators selling a portion of their entitlements to the Commonwealth through the water for the future program while maintaining their potential irrigation areas.

Future hot, dry periods and an increasing activation of temporary markets will see influxes new intermediaries. There may be increased risks to market participants if new market intermediaries lack appropriate frameworks in which to operate their business practices. These risks may be further heightened if these new market intermediaries only provide opportunistic services at high market pricing points such as a drought.

**Question 6:** Do you have any concerns in relation to intermediaries holding client funds? If so, what is the nature of this concern?

Waterfind strongly believes that client funds should only be ever held by intermediaries in an audited Trust account where the client's funds are protected from any action by creditors against the intermediary.

Any other practice in regards to client funds is a concern to Waterfind.

**Question 7:** Do you have any concerns in relation to the conduct of intermediaries when providing services? If so, what is the nature of this concern?

The rules governing transfers of water rights in Australia are extraordinarily complex and Waterfind commits very significant resources on an ongoing basis to research and implement water trading legislation that exists throughout the multiple jurisdictions where water trading can occur.

As a result of this significant investment of resources into policy and legal research Waterfind is able to maintain a trade rejection rate of less than 1%.

While the rules governing water markets remain this complex the capacity of intermediaries to provide accurate information to water rights holders will be limited and the market wide trade rejection rate will remain up around 15%.

The National Water Market System policy that is being pursued by COAG is the type of policy that is required to harmonise water market rules and institutions and with further development can support the future growth of water markets.

**Question 8:** Do you have reason to believe that the majority of intermediaries will take action to deal with the matters of stakeholder concern under the status quo?

Waterfind believes that the majority of current water market intermediaries provide a high quality services to water market participants and will continue to do so in the future.

However, we are very concerned of the risk of a small number of water market intermediaries engaging in reckless behaviour, particularly in regards to the administration of client funds. This behaviour could have a severe, disproportionate negative impact of the entire industry and the success of the national water market.

The worst case scenario would be a collapse of a single intermediary where client funds, that were held to settle open water trades, were seized by the intermediaries creditors. Waterfind believes that if this occurred, even to a small intermediary, it would have a chilling effect across the market and damage the reputation of all water market intermediaries and also more broadly upon Governments and the water market framework.

**Question 9:** What do you consider should be included in an industry code of conduct?

Waterfind does not believe that the development of an Industry Code of Conduct alone would be sufficient to secure the interests of water rights holders.

**Question 12:** Do you consider there are ways in which government could be involved in the VAS? If so, what are these?

Waterfind is a strong supporter of the National Water Market System and other policies being undertaken to develop consistent National water market regulations and institutions.

Once these policies are more developed the Government could have the capacity to limit access to intermediaries that meet the Voluntary Accreditation standard. This control of access would result in accredited intermediaries being able to conduct water transfers faster and more efficiently than non-accredited brokers, providing a clear business benefit to accreditation.

**Question 16:** If additional guidance material were provided, what remaining concerns would you have about intermediary misconduct?

Waterfind does not believe that additional guidance materials would ameliorate the risk of intermediary misconduct. Only a Voluntary Accreditation System or Industry Regulation will achieve these goals.

**Question 18:** If a VAS were implemented, what remaining concerns would you have about intermediary misconduct?

Waterfind believes that a strong, monitored Voluntary Accreditation System would be an important step in protecting the interests of water rights holders and maintaining confidence in water markets.

A key strength of a VAS would rely upon there being proportionate disciplines being able to be enforced in the event of misconduct from an intermediary.

Given though that a VAS may never be universally applied through all market intermediaries, its existence may not adequately protect water market services.

**Question 19:** If a licensing scheme were implemented, what remaining concerns would you have about intermediary misconduct?

Waterfind believes that a robust, well administered licensing scheme is required to ensure the security of the water market and the interest of market participants.

A licensing regime should require a market intermediaries to:

1. Operate an independently audited trust account for client funds that is protected from creditors.
2. Hold professional indemnity insurance specific to the transfer of water.
3. Prohibit any employee of an intermediaries from engaging in the buying and re-selling of water for profit.
4. Operate independently from a water regulatory authority.
5. Offer contracts drawn specifically for the purpose of water transfers.
6. Employ standards and consistent procedures to control the transfer process and protect the rights and interests of clients.
7. Report contracted prices to a centralised water price reporting system, ideally through a constant data stream or at least on an hourly basis.
8. Disclose and have agreements with clients as to the form of relationship, whether it is an intermediary or agency relationship.

Waterfind would have only minimal further concerns about intermediary misconduct.

**Question 20:** For each option, do you consider the available benefit would exceed the cost?

As standard company practice Waterfind adopts best practices amongst water market intermediaries

- Maintains a ISO 9001 certification standard
- Operates an audited trust account for holding client money that is protected from its creditors
- Prohibits Waterfind brokers from buying and selling water on their own behalf.
- Holds sufficient professional indemnity insurance
- Reports contracted pricing on at least an hourly basis to over 12,000 market participants
- Operates an independent board of governance that oversees company operation and standards

These practices impose costs onto Waterfind that are not borne by intermediaries that do not follow these practices. Waterfind's experience though is that by following these practices Waterfind can provide confidence to water rights holders in engaging with the market who otherwise would not have engaged with the market at all.

While either a Voluntary Accreditation Scheme or Industry regulation will impose further costs on both Government and intermediaries Waterfind is confident that it will also support an increase in water market activity and the social and economic benefits of water markets.

**Appendix B – 2015 Environmental Water Forum: Continuing to Grow Public Confidence in Environmental Watering**

# 2015 ENVIRONMENTAL WATER FORUM

**CONTINUING TO GROW PUBLIC CONFIDENCE  
IN ENVIRONMENTAL WATERING**

21 - 22 MAY 2015, WENTWORTH NSW, AUSTRALIA



**An initiative of the Water Trust Alliance ♦ Coordinated by Healthy Rivers Australia**



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## **1. Introduction**

### **Context**

Australia has one of the most advanced water reform agendas anywhere in the world. Current progress with water buybacks, investment in irrigation infrastructure to generate water savings and the Murray-Darling Basin Plan are testimony to this.

One outcome of the reform process is that the environment, through various Government agencies, has become Australia's largest single water entitlement holder. Significant environmental outcomes have been achieved through targeted use of this environmental water over the past decade. This has ranged from enhancing natural flows with large volumes of water to encourage and sustain fish and bird breeding events through to the targeted use of smaller volumes of water to fill wetlands that have been dry for extended periods.

Water trusts have existed for at least 10 years in Australia, and form part of the institutional landscape for environmental water management. They cover the breadth of non-profit, non-government organisations involved with environmental water sourcing and delivery and related activities such as monitoring and community engagement.

### **The Water Trust Alliance**

The Water Trust Alliance was established in 2009 as a way to provide Australian water trusts with an opportunity to work together to progress issues of common interest regarding the role of non-profit, private environmental water management organisations. Since this time, the Alliance has held two forums. The first in Canberra in 2011 posed the question "What role can they play in the future of environmental water management in Australia?". The second held in Canberra in 2014 focused on Australian Environmental Watering successes, improvements and the Agenda to 2019.

### **Forum Objectives**

Management of environmental water assets is coming under increasing scrutiny as many stakeholders involved with the water reform process ask whether the objectives of the reforms have been achieved, and whether the responsibilities for managing water are effective. To explore this theme, a range of stakeholders were invited to a forum held in Wentworth, NSW, on 21-22 May 2015 titled "Continuing to grow public confidence in Environmental watering".

The forum was attended by a range of organisations including representatives of water trusts, government agencies, indigenous groups, catchment management agencies, peak industry groups.

A list of attendees is provided at Attachment B.

The forum included one and a half days of presentations and facilitated discussions. The full agenda is provided at Attachment A.

The forum discussed the following issues:

- What are the key achievements since the 2014 forum?
- What is public confidence and who are the key target groups at a local and national scale?
- How do you measure public confidence and communicate it?
- What is working in localism and community engagement?
- What can we learn from the international experience of growing public confidence and community engagement?
- What is working from an adaptive management and monitoring perspective?
- What are the outcomes for aboriginal communities of environmental watering and what progress is being made in managing cultural flows?
- What are the golden principles for continuing to grow public confidence in environmental watering

This forum summary focuses on the achievements since the 2014 forum, outlines the “Golden principles” to growing public confidence in environmental watering and presents the participants’ views on the benefits of the 2015 forum.

Presentations delivered at the forum and further information can be requested at: [hra@waterfind.com.au](mailto:hra@waterfind.com.au)

The forum was conducted with the support of the following organisations:

- Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand Inc
- NSW Government Office of Environment & Heritage
- Australian Government
- Murray Darling Basin Authority
- Murray Darling Wetlands Working Group Ltd
- Healthy Rivers Australia
- Waterfind Pty Ltd

## **2. Key Achievements of environmental watering since the 2014 forum**

As had been observed at previous forums held by the Water Trust Alliance, significant progress was noted in terms of environmental outcomes from both water trust and government agency environmental watering projects. Key observations included:

- Water trusts managing increasingly larger volumes of water, especially by Murray-Darling Wetlands Ltd and Nature Foundation SA;
- Increasing interest and a move toward administrative and funding self-sufficiency such as by Murray-Darling Wetlands Ltd;
- Further demonstration of the effective engagement of water trusts with local and regional irrigators and communities, such as by Nature Foundation SA;
- Improved operational success, such as pumping water to sites with limited road access;
- Increased monitoring of environmental watering projects, including by aboriginal groups (e.g. Fletcher Creek and Mosquito Creek in NSW);
- Success through greater involvement of community in the prioritisation process for environmental watering projects.

### **3. Golden principles to growing public confidence in environmental watering**

A key outcome of the forum was the development of “golden principles” for growing public confidence in environmental watering. These were considered to be applicable to water trusts and government environmental water managers. Following discussion amongst forum participants the following golden principles were identified:

- Communicate success;
- A little water can go a long way;
- We are still learning about how to manage environmental water and that is OK. All feedback is good feedback and can be integrated into an adaptive management approach;
- Watering needs to be inclusive of aboriginal interests and such dialogue can raise cross cultural awareness;
- There are many types of public and we need to communicate with them differently.
- Utilise champions and know your assassins;
- Use consistent, common language;
- Engagement with the community needs to be early and on-going; and
- Share knowledge and data and make it accessible to everyone.

### **4. Participants view - Benefits of the 2015 forum**

The third Water Trust alliance forum was considered a success by those in attendance. Key features of the event noted by participants were that it:

- Maintained momentum from the 2014 forum;
- Provided a safe setting for people to speak openly and a supportive environment for those working in the industry;
- Presented an opportunity for voices to be heard that are not always listened to;
- Provide the chance for sharing of experiences and knowledge;
- Highlighted the importance of the past, present and future role of not-for-profits in managing environmental water;
- Raised the need to continue development of the role of Not-For-Profits;
- Brought together success stories and shared learnings from mistakes; and
- Provided an opportunity for networking, new contacts and partnerships.

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**Tom Rooney, Chairperson**

Healthy Rivers Australia

## Attachment A - Forum Agenda 21 & 22 May 2015

<b>Speakers</b>	
Mr. Tom Rooney , Water Trusts Alliance Spokesperson Ms Di Davidson, MDBA Authority member Mr. John Foster, Commonwealth Environmental Water Office	
<b>2014 achievements</b>	<b>Presentation</b>
Mr. Tom Rooney, Water Trusts Alliance Spokesperson Deb Nias, Murray Darling Wetlands Working Group Ian Atkinson, Nature Foundation SA Dr. Arlene Harriss-Buchan, Australian Conservation Foundation Ms Di Davidson, MDBA Authority member	Recapped 2014 recommendations New business model Community driven environmental water delivery Communications awareness and advocacy Panel Discussion
<b>What is working in Localism &amp; Community Engagement</b>	<b>Presentation</b>
Louise Chapman, Mallee CMA Graeme enders, Office of Environment and Heritage , NSW Dr. Mark Siebentritt, Healthy Rivers Australia Cherie Campbell, Murray Darling Freshwater Research Centre Juliet Le Feuvre, Environment Victoria Callie Nickolai, Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources SA	Environmental watering : Building relationships with communities, government and schools Connecting On-ground Building public confidence in environmental watering Building public confidence through best practice science: Local to Basin scales Environmental watering – a community perspective Panel Discussion
<b>The big picture - International Perspective</b>	<b>Presentation</b>
Dr. Dustin Garrick, Assistant Professor and Philomathia Chair of Water Policy, McMaster University Joe Whitworth, President at the Freshwater Trust, Oregon, USA Tom Annear, Wyoming Game & Fish Department, The convenor of Instream Flow Conference in US Hon David Caygill, Deputy Chair, Environment Canterbury (NZ regional water authority)	Colorado River case: adaptive management, growing public confidence and community engagement, and cultural flows or Native American outcomes  Environmental flow concepts and effective communication strategies  How has ECan gone about building public confidence in environmental watering. What does best practice community engagement look like, how does ECan do it?
<b>Adaptive Management &amp; Monitoring</b>	<b>Presentation</b>
John Forester, Commonwealth Environmental Water Office Richard Mintern, Commonwealth Environmental Water Office, Local engagement officer Michael Spencer, Water Stewardship Australia	Commonwealth environmental water - Adaptive Management Pathways to community engagement: Enhancing environmental relationship ENGAGING INDUSTRY IN RIVER HEALTH, Water Stewardship in a Global Context, Inspiring big water users to be the best water users
<b>Aboriginal outcomes from environmental watering &amp; Cultural Flow</b>	
Darren Perry, MLDRIN Mr. Dameion Kennedy, BMEET (Barkindji Maraura Elders Environment Team) Grant Rigney and Steve Hemming, Ngarrindjeri Regional Authority , SA Ms Lillian Moseley, Aboriginal Water Initiative, NSW	

## Attachment B – List of participants

\* participated via video conference facilities.

Name	Organisation
Aaron Matsinos	Murray-Darling Basin Authority
Amardeep Grewal	Aboriginal Water Initiative, NSW Office of Water
Amy Russell	North Central Catchment Management Authority
Amy De Salle	Ngarrindjeri Regional Authority
Ann Shaw Rungie	Ann Shaw Rungie Consulting
Anne Jensen	Anne E Jensen Environmental Consultant
Arlene Harriss-Buchan	Australian Conservation Foundation
Bob Lott	Nature Foundation SA
Bryce Morden	Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority
Callie Nickolai	Department of Environment Water and Natural Resources
Cherie Campbell	The Murray-Darling Freshwater Research Centre
Chris Clark	Millewa Pumping
Dameion Kennedy	BEMEET
Darren White	North Central Catchment Management Authority
Darren Perry	MLDRIN
* Hon David Caygill	Environment Canterbury (NZ regional water authority)
Deb Nias	Murray-Darling Wetlands
Deborah Bogenhuber	The Murray-Darling Freshwater Research Centre
Dennis King	BEMEET
Dixon Patten	Barapa Cultural Flows project
* Dustin Garrick	McMaster University
Elizabeth Webb	NSW Department of Primary Industries
Emma Coats	Victorian Environmental Water Holder
Fiona Freestone	The Murray-Darling Freshwater Research Centre
Graeme Enders	Office of Environment and Heritage (NSW)
Grant Rigney	Ngarrindjeri Regional Authority
Greg Fletcher	Wimmera Catchment Management Authority
Greg Snowdon	BEMEET
* Hiyoba Ghirmay	Healthy Rivers Australia
Ian Atkinson	Nature Foundation SA
Joe Flynn	Joe Flynn & Associates
* Joe Whitworth	The Freshwater Trust, USA
John Foster	Commonwealth Environmental Water Office
Juliet Le Feuvre	Environment Victoria
Kenny Clark	NSW OEH (National Parks & Wildlife Service)
Lauren Murphy	Mallee Catchment Management Authority
Lillian Moseley	Aboriginal Water Initiative, NSW Office of Water
Lisa Clark	Millewa Pumping
Louise Chapman	Mallee Catchment Management Authority
Mark Siebentritt	Healthy Rivers Australia
Mathew Maliel	Office of Environment and Heritage (NSW)
Meera Joyce	Murray-Darling Basin Authority
Michael Aberton	ABSolution Ecology
Michael Spencer	Water Stewardship Australia

Name	Organisation
Michelle Casanova	Federation University
Michelle Campbell	Natural Resources SA Murray-Darling Basin (CEWO)
Paul Maytom	Leeton shire
Richard Minter	Commonwealth Environmental Water Office
Saul Vermeeren	Corangamite Catchment Management Authority
Scott Jaensch	NSW Office of Water
Sascha Healy	Office of Environment and Heritage NSW
Susan Saris	Mallee Catchment Management Authority
Steve Hemming	Ngarrindjeri Regional Authority
* Tom Annear	Wyoming Game and Fish Department, USA
Tom Rooney	Healthy Rivers Australia



## SPONSORS

