



MEDIA RELEASE

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**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STANDING COMMITTEE
ON REGIONAL AUSTRALIA**

INQUIRY INTO CERTAIN MATTERS RELATING TO THE PROPOSED MURRAY-DARLING BASIN PLAN

*Chair: Mr Tony Windsor MP
Deputy Chair: Mr Steve Gibbons MP*

**INQUIRY INTO CERTAIN MATTERS RELATING TO THE PROPOSED MURRAY-DARLING BASIN
PLAN**

Regional Australia Committee releases report into Murray-Darling Basin Plan

The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Regional Australia has today released its report into certain matters relating to the Murray Darling Basin Plan. The Committee has made a number of recommendations aimed at improving the information available on water recovery and water trading.

The Committee has also recommended that sustainable diversion limits be automatically adjusted in response to efficiencies gained by environmental works and measures and that greater effort be put into initiatives to improve river management and monitoring.

‘The Basin Plan is close to finalisation but there is still some key information that the Parliament needs before it is asked to make a final decision concerning the Plan’, Chair of the Committee, Tony Windsor MP said. ‘The Parliament, and the community, cannot be expected to accept a Basin Plan when it does not have the full facts before it. I hope the Government acts on these recommendations promptly.’

The Committee undertook the inquiry on the request of the Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities, The Hon Tony Burke MP. The inquiry had limited terms of reference and the Committee has reported as quickly as possible to ensure that the Murray-Darling Basin Ministerial Council can consider the report alongside the draft Basin Plan.

The report is available from the Committee’s website – www.aph.gov.au/ra.

For media comment: contact the Chair’s media advisor, Graham Nuttall on 0412 916 040.

For information on the inquiry: contact the Secretariat on (02) 6277 4162, email mdb.reps@aph.gov.au or visit the Committee website at <http://www.aph.gov.au/ra>