

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Legislation Committee
Answers to questions on notice
Environment portfolio

Question No: 100
Hearing: Budget Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 4
Programme: Water Efficiency Division
Topic: MENINDEE LAKES PROJECT
Hansard Page: 68
Question Date: 26 May 2014
Question Type: Spoken

Senator Xenophon asked:

Senator XENOPHON: To save me having to FOI this, can you, on notice, advise when the negotiations took place with the New South Wales government and what the nature and scope of those negotiations were, and when were there similar negotiations with respect to Menindee Lakes with both the Victorian and the South Australian governments?

Mr McLoughlin: I could certainly advise you on notice about when those discussions were held with South Australia and Victoria at the scope of works in negotiation.

Answer:

Meetings involving officers from the Department of the Environment, the Murray-Darling Basin Authority and the New South Wales Office of Water were held with relevant officials from:

- the South Australian Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources on 24 May 2013; and
- the Victorian Department of Environment and Primary Industries on 7 June 2013.

The scope of the talks included discussion of hydrological modelling undertaken by the Murray-Darling Basin Authority on the potential downstream impacts of various options for infrastructure and management rule changes at Menindee Lakes, and what this might mean for changes to the Murray-Darling Basin Agreement (Schedule 1 of the *Water Act 2007*).