

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

**Question No:** 225  
**Hearing:** Budget Estimates  
**Outcome:** Outcome 4  
**Programme:** Murray Darling Basin Authority (MDBA)  
**Topic:** MDB Special Account  
**Hansard Page:** 87  
**Question Date:** 25 May 2015  
**Question Type:** Spoken

**Senator Singh asked:**

It includes revenue drawn from the Murray-Darling Basin Special Account?

**Ms Schumann:** It does.

**Senator SINGH:** Can you provide us with a breakdown of that revenue, whether it is for the measures that you have just spoken about?

**Ms Schumann:** I can. It would probably be best if I gave that to you in writing.

**Senator SINGH:** I just wanted to know how much came from basin states, for which projects and programs, and how much was drawn from the special account and for what purpose.

**Ms Schumann:** Essentially the increase in the cash contributions for jurisdictions was \$13.6 million. That was a negotiated outcome and the cash. An increase in the comparative revenues is a result—\$10 million—primarily of some accounting treatment as a result of the introduction of the PGPA, the Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act.

**Answer:**

From 1 July 2014 the MDBA 'Special Account' (as defined in the FMA Act) was abolished due to the introduction of the PGPA Act. The total balance was transferred to an MDBA bank account with the RBA.

The amount unallocated (due to prior year underspends) from joint funded sources for joint funded activities in the MDBA bank account is budgeted to be \$11.233m as at 1 July 2015 (an increase of \$1.430m since 1 July 2014 due to an underspend in 2014-15).

A further amount of \$4.999m remains available for the Environmental Works and Measures Program (EWMP). Contributions for 2015-16 are budgeted to be \$80.708m, comprising budgeted receipts of \$77.708m and prior year receipts of \$3m that were recognised as deferred revenue. The contribution from each jurisdiction is based on the agreed cost share arrangements. In addition, the MDBA is budgeting to receive royalties and other revenue totalling \$3.507m (please refer to page 254 of the PBS).

**Tables A** provides a breakdown of revenue, including how much came from Basin states and includes the brought forward balance from the abolished MDBA Special Account.

**Table B** provides an overview of planned program expenditure on joint funded activities for 2015-16.

**Tables C to F** provide a breakdown of projects within each program of work planned for 2015-16.

**TABLE A** reflects the total available resources for joint funded activities for 2015-16:

| Source   | Amount (\$'000) |
|--|-----------------|
| <b>2015-16 contributions</b>                             |                 |
| Australian Government                                    | 9,989           |
| NSW  | 24,699          |
| VIC  | 23,568          |
| SA   | 19,054          |
| QLD  | 100             |
| ACT  | 298             |
| <b>Subtotal - 2015-16 contributions</b>                  | <b>77,708</b>   |
| Revenue received in advance of 2015-16                   | 3,000           |
| Royalties and other revenue                              | 3,507           |
| <b>Total own-source revenue (as per PBS table 3.2.1)</b> | <b>84,215</b>   |
| Actual unallocated funds as at 1-July-2014               | 9,803           |
| Budgeted unallocated funds from 2014-15                  | 1,430           |
| EMWP   | 4,999           |
| <b>Balances brought forward</b>                          | <b>16,232</b>   |
| <b>Total available resources*</b>                        | <b>100,447</b>  |

\*Please note, this amount is lower than "other receipts" in PBS table 1.1 due to non-cash items such as depreciation, amortisation, make-good and audit fees received free of charge.

**TABLE B** reflects the total planned expenditure on joint funded activities for 2015-16:

| Program  | Amount (\$'000) |
|--|-----------------|
| 1. Integrated Water Management                               | 403             |
| 2. River and Ecosystem Health                                | 18,686          |
| 3. Knowledge Into Action                                     | 2,406           |
| 4. River Murray Asset Management                             | 66,149          |
| <b>Subtotal 2015-16 joint programs</b>                       | <b>87,644</b>   |
| Funding for (deferred) prior year projects                   | 3,000           |
| <b>Total resources allocated to 2015-16 joint activities</b> | <b>90,644</b>   |
| Budgeted carry forward as at 30 June 2016                    | 9,803           |
| <b>Total resources</b>                                       | <b>100,447</b>  |

A breakdown of the \$87.644m subtotal is provided in the tables below. More detailed descriptions and objectives of each program are contained within the MDBA's Corporate Plan that will be published on the [MDBA website](#) by end August 2015.

**TABLE C** provides a breakdown of the Integrated Water Management program.

| Strategic Task No. | Sub-Program and Tasks   | 2015-16 budget (\$'000) |
|--------------------|---|-------------------------|
|                    | <b>1.0 - Integrated Water Management</b>                                      |                         |
|                    | <b>1.3 - To improve water security for all uses of Basin water resources.</b> |                         |
| 1.3.5              | <b>Water Markets</b>  | <b>280</b>              |
|                    | <b>Subtotal Objective: 1.3</b>  | <b>280</b>              |
|                    | <b>1.9 - Corporate Overhead Goal 1</b>  |                         |
| 1.9.9              | <b>Corporate Overhead Goal 1</b>  | <b>123</b>              |
|                    | <b>Subtotal Objective: 1.9</b>  | <b>123</b>              |
|                    | <b>TOTAL GOAL 1.0 - Integrated Water Management</b>                           | <b>403</b>              |

TABLE D provides a breakdown of the River and Ecosystem Health program.

| Strategic Task No. | Sub-Program and Tasks   | 2015-16 budget (\$'000) |
|--------------------|---|-------------------------|
|                    | <b>2.0 - River and Ecosystem Health</b>   |                         |
|                    | <b>2.1 - To optimise ecological outcomes of environmental water in the Basin.</b>   |                         |
| <b>2.1.5</b>       | <b>TLM Planning and Delivery</b>  | <b>8,760</b>            |
|                    | <b>Icon site planning and management (TLM)</b>  | <b>2,868</b>            |
|                    | Barmah-Millewa Forest   | 660                     |
|                    | Gunbower/Koondrook-Pericoota Forest   | 660                     |
|                    | Hattah Lakes  | 330                     |
|                    | Mouth Corrong Lower Lakes   | 330                     |
|                    | Chowilla Lindsay Walpolla   | 730                     |
|                    | Icon Site Program management  | 158                     |
|                    | <b>Planning and deciding use of water (TLM)</b>   | <b>756</b>              |
|                    | Coordination of Annual Environmental Water Planning   | 756                     |
|                    | <b>Portfolio and delivery charges (TLM)</b>   | <b>5,136</b>            |
|                    | Delivery costs (TLM)  | 5,136                   |
| <b>2.1.7</b>       | <b>TLM Modelling</b>  | <b>277</b>              |
|                    | <b>Planning and deciding use of water (TLM)</b>   | <b>277</b>              |
|                    | TLM Modelling Support   | 277                     |
|                    | <b>Subtotal Objective: 2.1</b>  | <b>9,037</b>            |
|                    | <b>2.2 - To improve the understanding of river health including ecosystem health, function and response to watering and management interventions.</b> |                         |
| <b>2.2.3</b>       | <b>River Murray Health</b>  | <b>613</b>              |
|                    | <b>Monitoring and Evaluation Program</b>  | <b>100</b>              |
|                    | Pest fish management including control tilapia/carp (M&ES)  | 85                      |
|                    | Showcasing river restoration techniques to benefit native fish  | 15                      |
|                    | <b>River Murray Water Quality</b>   | <b>513</b>              |
|                    | Program Management - water quality monitoring (RMWQ)  | 253                     |
|                    | Data collection - biological monitoring (RMWQ)  | 260                     |
| <b>2.2.4</b>       | <b>TLM Monitoring</b>   | <b>4,244</b>            |
|                    | <b>Monitoring (TLM)</b>   | <b>4,244</b>            |
|                    | Condition - Barmah-Millewa Forest   | 470                     |
|                    | Condition - Gunbower/Koondrook-Pericoota Forest   | 500                     |
|                    | Condition - Hattah Lakes  | 275                     |
|                    | Condition - Mouth Corrong Lower Lakes   | 300                     |
|                    | Condition - Chowilla Lindsay Walpolla   | 595                     |
|                    | Condition - System Scale  | 80                      |
|                    | Intervention and risk compliance monitoring (TLM)   | 1,700                   |
|                    | Program management (TLM)  | 324                     |
| <b>2.2.5</b>       | <b>Environmental Monitoring and Evaluation</b>  | <b>800</b>              |
|                    | <b>Monitoring and Evaluation Program</b>  | <b>800</b>              |
|                    | Integrated Environmental Monitoring and Evaluation  | 800                     |
| <b>2.2.6</b>       | <b>Murray-Darling Freshwater Research Centre (MDFRC)</b>  | <b>1,000</b>            |

|              |   |               |
|--------------|---|---------------|
|              | <b>Core contribution</b>  | <b>1,000</b>  |
|              | Core contribution   | 1,000         |
|              | <b>Subtotal Objective: 2.2</b>  | <b>6,657</b>  |
|              | <b>2.3 - To reduce adverse impacts on river and ecosystem health.</b> |               |
| <b>2.3.2</b> | <b>Water Quality and Salinity Management</b>                          | <b>1,600</b>  |
|              | <b>Basin Salinity Management Strategy</b>                             | <b>1,600</b>  |
|              | Program Management (BSMS)   | 208           |
|              | Policy inc reviews, Schedule B, End-of-Valley targets (BSMS)          | 703           |
|              | Establishing and maintaining the salinity registers (BSMS)            | 380           |
|              | Annual reporting of implementation of the (BSMS)                      | 30            |
|              | Audit and compliance (BSMS)   | 279           |
|              | <b>Subtotal Objective: 2.3</b>  | <b>1,600</b>  |
|              | <b>2.9 - Corporate Overhead Goal 2</b>                                |               |
| <b>2.9.9</b> | <b>Corporate Overhead Goal 2</b>                                      | <b>1,392</b>  |
|              | <b>Corporate and enabling services</b>                                | <b>1,392</b>  |
|              | Corporate Enabling Services   | 1,392         |
|              | <b>Subtotal Objective: 2.9</b>  | <b>1,392</b>  |
|              | <b>TOTAL GOAL 2.0 - River and Ecosystem Health</b>                    | <b>18,686</b> |

TABLE E provides a breakdown of the Knowledge Into Action program.

| Strategic Task No. | Sub-Program and Tasks  | 2015-16 budget (\$'000) |
|--------------------|--|-------------------------|
|                    | <b>3.0 - Knowledge Into Action</b>   |                         |
|                    | <b>3.1 - To continuously build an evidence base to support the implementation of the Basin Plan and delivery of joint programs through data acquisition, research and dissemination of knowledge.</b>        |                         |
| <b>3.1.4</b>       | <b>Core Modelling</b>  | <b>950</b>              |
|                    | <b>Subtotal Objective: 3.1</b>   | <b>950</b>              |
|                    | <b>3.2 – Timely publication and communication of information relating to the Murray-Darling Basin in a form that is accessible to communities, governments and industry to meet their information needs.</b> |                         |
| <b>3.2.6</b>       | <b>Secretariat</b>   | <b>434</b>              |
| <b>3.2.7</b>       | <b>TLM Indigenous Partnerships</b>   | <b>480</b>              |
|                    | <b>Subtotal Objective: 3.2</b>   | <b>914</b>              |
|                    | <b>3.9 - Corporate Overhead Goal 3</b>   |                         |
| <b>3.9.9</b>       | <b>Corporate Overhead Goal 3</b>   | <b>542</b>              |
|                    | <b>Subtotal Objective: 3.9</b>   | <b>542</b>              |
|                    | <b>TOTAL GOAL 3.0 - Knowledge Into Action</b>  | <b>2,406</b>            |

TABLE F provides a breakdown of the River Murray Asset Management program.

| Strategic Task No. | Sub-Program and Tasks   | 2015-16 budget (\$'000) |
|--------------------|---|-------------------------|
|                    | <b>4.0 - River Murray Asset Management</b>  |                         |
|                    | <b>4.1 - To build, maintain and improve River Murray system assets to achieve contemporary best practice standards.</b> |                         |
| <b>4.1.01</b>      | <b>Water Assets - VIC</b>   | <b>10,820</b>           |
|                    | <b>Category 1a</b>  | <b>7,937</b>            |

|               |  |               |
|---------------|--|---------------|
|               | Dartmouth Dam                                    | 3,180         |
|               | Hume Dam (Vic Component)                         | 1,784         |
|               | Yarrowonga Weir                                  | 1,567         |
|               | Torrumbarry - Lock 26                            | 1,406         |
|               | <b>Category 2a</b>                               | <b>2,246</b>  |
|               | Mildura - Lock 11                                | 2,246         |
|               | <b>Environment Including Structures</b>          | <b>637</b>    |
|               | Vic River Channel management                     | 575           |
|               | Vic Forest Water management                      | 62            |
| <b>4.1.02</b> | <b>Water Assets - NSW</b>                        | <b>9,237</b>  |
|               | <b>Category 1a</b>                               | <b>3,016</b>  |
|               | Hume Dam (NSW Component)7                        | 3,016         |
|               | <b>Category 1b</b>                               | <b>3,071</b>  |
|               | Euston - Lock 15                                 | 777           |
|               | Lake Victoria (NSW Component)                    | 674           |
|               | Menindee Lakes (RMW 75%)                         | 1,620         |
|               | <b>Category 2a</b>                               | <b>757</b>    |
|               | Wentworth - Lock 10                              | 757           |
|               | <b>Environment Including Structures</b>          | <b>2,393</b>  |
|               | NSW River Channel management                     | 1,688         |
|               | NSW Forest Water management                      | 705           |
| <b>4.1.03</b> | <b>Water Assets - SA</b>                         | <b>18,265</b> |
|               | <b>Category 1b</b>                               | <b>5,268</b>  |
|               | Kulnine - Lock 9                                 | 735           |
|               | Lake Victoria (SA Component)                     | 2,349         |
|               | Barrages   | 2,184         |
|               | <b>Category 2b</b>                               | <b>6,838</b>  |
|               | Wangumma - Lock 8                                | 708           |
|               | Rufus River - Lock 7                             | 817           |
|               | Murtho - Lock 6                                  | 1,081         |
|               | Renmark - Lock 5                                 | 706           |
|               | Bookpurnong - Lock 4                             | 732           |
|               | Overland Corner - Lock 3                         | 673           |
|               | Waikerie - Lock 2                                | 1,071         |
|               | Blanchetown - Lock 1                             | 1,050         |
|               | <b>Environment Including Structures</b>          | <b>159</b>    |
|               | SA River Channel management                      | 159           |
|               | <b>Murray Mouth Sand Pumping</b>                 | <b>6,000</b>  |
|               | Murray Mouth Sand Pumping                        | 6,000         |
| <b>4.1.05</b> | <b>Asset Management Strategies</b>               | <b>3,966</b>  |
|               | <b>RMW Office</b>                                | <b>3,966</b>  |
|               | Asset Management - Environmental Works           | -             |
|               | Asset management - River Structures              | 2,362         |
|               | Asset management - Salinity Interception Schemes | 158           |
|               | Executive  | 288           |

|               |  |               |
|---------------|--|---------------|
|               | RMW Contingency  | 1,158         |
| <b>4.1.06</b> | <b>Operate/Maintain existing SIS (Salt Interception Schemes)</b>   | <b>7,668</b>  |
|               | <b>Salt Interception Schemes</b>   | <b>7,668</b>  |
|               | Barr Creek   | 441           |
|               | Mildura-Merbein  | 552           |
|               | Pyramid Creek  | 140           |
|               | Mallee Cliffs  | 766           |
|               | Buronga  | 496           |
|               | Other (monitoring)   | 92            |
|               | Upper Darling (Glen Villa)   | 155           |
|               | Rufus River  | 107           |
|               | Woolpunda  | 1,597         |
|               | Waikerie   | 959           |
|               | Loxton   | 859           |
|               | Bookpurnong  | 714           |
|               | Pike/Mundic  | 249           |
|               | Murtho   | 330           |
|               | Other (Performance monitoring, DWLBC model maintenance and monitoring.)  | 211           |
| <b>4.1.12</b> | <b>EWMP - Operate/Maintain of Gunbower Forest Watering Works</b>   | <b>4,799</b>  |
|               | <b>Environmental Works and Measures Program</b>  | <b>4,799</b>  |
|               | EWMP - Operate/Maintain of Gunbower Forest Watering Works  | 4,799         |
| <b>4.1.14</b> | <b>EWMP Program Management</b>   | <b>200</b>    |
|               | <b>Environmental Works and Measures Program</b>  | <b>200</b>    |
|               | EWMP Program Management  | 200           |
| <b>4.1.15</b> | <b>Environmental Works and Measures Operations</b>   | <b>1,586</b>  |
|               | <b>Environmental Works Operations</b>  | <b>1,586</b>  |
|               | Chowilla Environmental Works   | 480           |
|               | Lindsay, Mullaroo and Mulcra Island e-works  | 171           |
|               | Gunbower Environmental Works   | 163           |
|               | Hattah Environmental Works   | 468           |
|               | Koondrook Environmental Works (NSW Component)  | 288           |
|               | Koondrook Environmental Works (VIC Component)  | 16            |
| <b>4.1.16</b> | <b>Fishways at Murray Mouth Barrages</b>   | <b>567</b>    |
|               | <b>Fishways at Murray Mouth Barrages</b>   | <b>567</b>    |
|               | Fishways at Murray Mouth Barrages  | 567           |
|               | <b>Subtotal Objective: 4.1</b>   | <b>57,108</b> |
|               | <b>4.2 - To manage the water sharing of the River Murray system between states to meet multiple social, economic and environmental objectives and support the community.</b> |               |
| <b>4.2.1</b>  | <b>River Operations</b>  | <b>1,912</b>  |
|               | <b>RMW Office</b>  | <b>1,912</b>  |
|               | River operations (modelling)   | 281           |
|               | Executive  | 1,431         |
|               | Real time flood model  | 200           |
| <b>4.2.2</b>  | <b>Operations Services</b>   | <b>686</b>    |

|              |   |               |
|--------------|---|---------------|
|              | <b>RMW Office</b>                                       | <b>686</b>    |
|              | Program management - hydrometric and water quality data | 530           |
|              | Operations Improvement                                  | 156           |
| <b>4.2.3</b> | <b>Operations Services (Hydrometric Network)</b>        | <b>3,555</b>  |
|              | <b>Hydrometric network</b>                              | <b>3,555</b>  |
|              | Vic River Gauging                                       | 1,310         |
|              | Vic Water Quality                                       | 253           |
|              | NSW River Gauging                                       | 1,229         |
|              | NSW Water Quality                                       | 150           |
|              | SA River Gauging  | 478           |
|              | SA Water Quality  | 135           |
| <b>4.2.4</b> | <b>Operation Improvements</b>                           | <b>709</b>    |
|              | <b>RMW Office</b>                                       | <b>709</b>    |
|              | Operations Improvement                                  | 709           |
|              | <b>Subtotal Objective: 4.2</b>                          | <b>6,862</b>  |
|              | <b>4.9 - Corporate Overhead Goal 4</b>                  |               |
| <b>4.9.9</b> | <b>Corporate Overhead Goal 4</b>                        | <b>2,179</b>  |
|              | <b>Corporate and enabling services</b>                  | <b>2,179</b>  |
|              | Corporate Enabling Services                             | 2,179         |
|              | <b>Subtotal Objective: 4.9</b>                          | <b>2,179</b>  |
|              | <b>TOTAL GOAL 4.0 - River Murray Asset Management</b>   | <b>66,149</b> |

|                                       |               |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|
| <b>Total - Joint Programs Funding</b> | <b>87,644</b> |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|